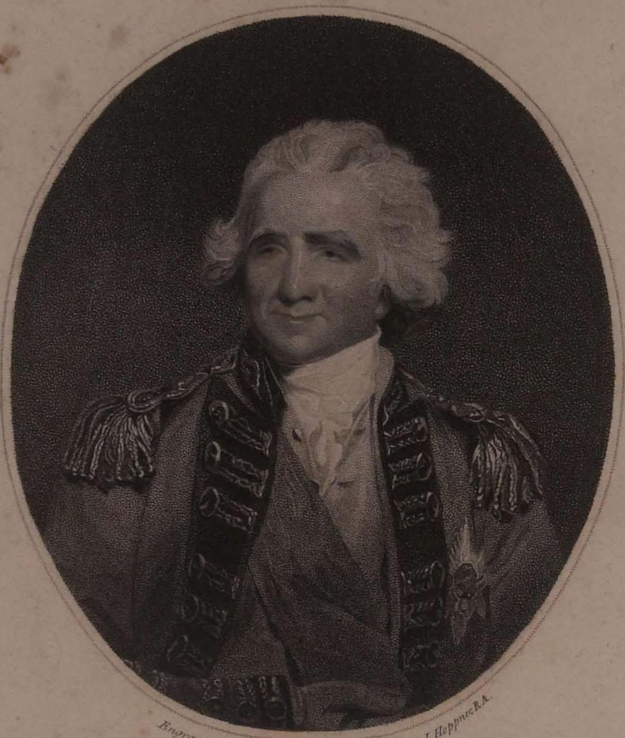
HISTORY

OF THE

BRITISH EXPEDITION TO EGYPT.

C. Roworth, Printer, Bell Yard, Fleet Street.



Engraved by H. Meyer, from an Original by I. Hoppner R.A.

LIEUT.[T] GENERAL

Sir Ralph Abercrombie

Knight of the Order of the Bath,

and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces

in the Mediterranean.

Quis desiderio sit pudor, aut modus
Tam cari capitis? *Hor.*___

Sir Fazir Rajah. 1827

HISTORY

OF THE

BRITISH EXPEDITION

TO

EGYPT;

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,

A SKETCH OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THAT COUNTRY AND ITS MEANS OF DEFENCE.

ILLUSTRATED

WITH MAPS, AND A PORTRAIT OF

SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY.

BY ROBERT THOMAS WILSON,

LIEUTENANT COLONEL OF CAVALRY IN HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE, AND KNIGHT OF THE IMPERIAL MILITARY ORDER OF MARIA THERESA.

Dicam insigne recens, adhuc indictam,
Ore alio. Hor. *Carm.*

LONDON:

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1802.

TO

FIELD MARSHAL

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF YORK,

COMMANDER IN CHIEF,

&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

PLACED in the army, and honoured by your protection, I have ever considered that the utmost energies I was capable of exerting should be directed to obtain your approbation. Private feelings would therefore have induced me to dedicate my work to your Royal Highness, had you not, Sir, a claim on every military production. A claim not arising only from your high situation, but founded on the universally acknowledged fact, that, under your auspices, the British Army has attained a character which was never outrivalled in the most brilliant æra of the English History.

When your Royal Highness assumed the command, abuses had disordered the service. Your judicious regulations, impartially executed, instantly checked their pernicious influence,

ence, and soon recovered to the profession that respect which for a time had been denied, finally establishing it on the basis of honour, emulation, and merit.

This language, Sir, strictly represents the general sentiment of your country, whose honest eulogies must be much more gratifying than all the panegyrics which adulation could indite.

To you, Sir, must also be attributed those arrangements and that impulse of zeal, which, notwithstanding the severe losses in the war, placed at the disposal of government, to carry on a ninth campaign, the force which composed the Egyptian army; an army which, whilst manifesting so conspicuously that national valour, which your Royal Highness has so often witnessed, and, animated by your presence, appropriates to itself a celebrity for unrivalled discipline.

I am aware, Sir, that I have undertaken a very difficult task, and with anxiety await the result; yet I trust, that if in the enquiry I have pursued, some opinions may appear indiscreet, your Royal Highness's candour will prefer a work on such a subject, when written with freedom, rather than one circumscribed by restraint.

My object has been to write truths, to avoid flattery or calumny; nor should a statement of some facts introduced into this History be imputed to the latter motive.

If

If the narrative be approved, I shall indeed feel pride in having faithfully recorded the events of this illustrious campaign; and at all events I shall hope, that zeal will excuse, in some favourable degree, any want of ability.

With every sentiment of gratitude, and with the ardent hope that your Royal Highness may long live to command the British army, and see its glories extended, I remain

Your Royal Highness's

Most devoted Servant,

ROBERT WILSON,

Lt. Col. Hompesch's Huss.

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

WHEN a military man hazards a publication, he should, if possible, avert the severity of criticism from his work; and the author hopes, that an appeal to the consideration and good nature of the learned will in this instance procure him their indulgence, since he does not presume to rank himself in their numbers, nor can the writings of a soldier affect the credit of literature.

As none of the Universities provide an official historiographer, which is much to be lamented, the details of a campaign can only be communicated to the public by persons attached to an army.

Certainly the charge of vanity may be preferred against me, for appointing myself to a post of so much difficulty and danger; but my excuse rests on the apathy shewn by others, whose talents capacitated them more fully for the duty. Perhaps I may also be accused of having exceeded the limits of a military treatise, by entering into descriptions of places and similar digressions: yet I submit to the candour of every man, whether the omission would not have excited greater displeasure. Such a country as Egypt is too interesting to be passed over without observation, and the accounts hitherto published have not satiated curiosity. My plea then is a wish to afford as much amusement as possible, where it was necessary some notice should be taken; and I adopted the style of history, imagining that a

narrative

narrative would be more entertaining than a journal, since the events of each day do not excite an equal interest.*

With respect to my cursory examination into the diseases which afflicted the army, the medical department will, I feel confident, excuse such an interference, when the motive is considered which induced me to give an outline of maladies, distinguishing Egypt to the world as an almost uninhabitable country. The physical profession is much too liberal to feel irritated, where the object is public service, and they will rather encourage any attempt which may tend to promote the end desired.

As an apology for all inaccuracies of composition, it must be mentioned, that I did not submit my work to the correction of professed scholars, having heard formerly that Lord Lyttelton had sixty pages of errata returned to him, and therefore being afraid that my whole writings would be blotted out.

A younger brother, and Mr. Roworth my printer, whose talents and information have indeed rendered me very considerable assistance, are the only persons who have seen the manuscript, or made any alterations in the proofs.

Under the apprehensions of having the offspring of my brain, which Montaigne says is as dear as the child of one's bosom, perish prematurely, I preferred ushering the cherished object into the world, uncultivated as it may be, depending on a kind reception for the virtues it represents for imitation, rather than

* In the margin of the proof sheet I insert this note, having heard only of Lieutenant Walsh's final intention to publish a Journal of the Campaign in Egypt, since my work went to press. Mr. Walsh's notes I never saw; but have been shewn partially the drawings; and therefore venture to say, that public expectation cannot form too high an opinion of the ingenious plans and elegant designs which Mr. Walsh himself executed, and which he proposes to insert.

on

on any inherent qualities, which the fondness of many parents might imagine to exist, and presume on.

As to the contents, I solemnly declare to the British nation, that I have endeavoured to relate a faithful narrative of a campaign, which, combined with the naval victories, and their own magnanimity, have elevated the glory of our country to the proudest altitude. Nor should England pride herself alone on the military services of the Egyptian army; throughout the war her troops have fought with equal gallantry: but she may also boast that the moral conduct of that army has exalted her fame on a foundation more durable than victory, erecting her monuments of honour upon the gratitude and admiration of mankind.

It was impossible to travel through a country (unattended by any escort,* as was frequently the case, experiencing the kindest attentions of friendship from every individual of a people hostile by religion, prejudice, and former ill usage to Europeans) without reflecting with considerable gratification on the causes which produced these acts of hospitality in favour of Englishmen. There was a vanity justly indulged in reflecting, that a Frenchman could never venture to pass through the same districts, even when the French army ruled with uncontested dominion, unless guarded by a force sufficient to command his security.

In the Deserts of Lybia, and throughout Egypt, a British

* No intreaties could induce a Mameluke or a Turk to exceed a walk in travelling, therefore officers who carried dispatches, preferred going alone, as by great exertion they could then force their horses about seven miles an hour; but in crossing the Delta I had a very fine horse, given me by the Vizier, die, after a journey of twenty miles, although he had been three hours passing that distance. The Egyptian horses, however, are capable of great fatigue, and with a walk of about five miles an hour, would on a long journey beat perhaps any horses in the world; beyond that pace they are absolutely good for nothing.

uniform was equally respected with the turban of Mahometanism, and the word of an Englishman esteemed sacred as the Koran.

To the Egyptian Army I must plead my zeal to render justice to their merits, as an apology for naming myself their historian; and I hope that they will kindly judge of any errors which may appear, remembering what difficulties oppose themselves to the collection of complete information; and I trust that the Navy will treat any inaccuracy relating to themselves with the same consideration.

Although no great naval actions immediately connected with the expedition were to be recorded,* still the navy is intitled to the highest applause, and one universal sentiment of estimation pervaded the army, at the zeal, perseverance, and vigilance, which, without exception, they displayed; for theirs, as General Hutchinson states, was not the labour of a day, or of a week, but for months together.

Those naval officers who served with the troops on shore had more opportunity to render themselves conspicuous; and they well maintained the reputation of their service.

But throughout I have anxiously endeavoured to avoid indiscriminate praise; as in the first place there would be a considerable degree of presumption in me to assume the too fascinating power of distributing the laurel crowns; and secondly, an aversion to those frequent honourable mentions which originated in a perusal of the Gazettes, published during the Irish Rebellion, has not since been removed. Yet where Fortune presented marked opportunities to the gallantry of individuals and corps, it became my duty to particularize the dis-

* Captain Barlow's capture of L'Africaine, although a ship destined for Egypt, and Lord Cochrane's gallant action, as they did not happen on the coast of Egypt, were not within the confines of my history.

tinguishing

tinguishing traits ; and if I have omitted to mention any whose services entitled them to be noticed, I beg them to accept this assurance, that the omission proceeded from ignorance of the circumstances, or failure of memory, and that the earliest opportunity shall be courted to acknowledge and rectify every error.*

To the army collectively, I have ventured to submit my work, as one recording events, which in themselves must animate with pride and emulation. If any instruction should be derived from the remarks, my own gratification would of course be considerable.

To those who may imagine that my representations of General Buonaparte's conduct in the several instances referred to are imprudent, and improper at this moment to be brought forwards, I must premise, that if they are concerned only for the character of that general, I am happy to afford them an occasion to be better acquainted with this celebrated man, who, by his great fortune and uninterrupted career of victory (with one exception of Acre, that glorious monument of British conduct), has dazzled the understandings of the mass of mankind, and prevented the results of those enquiries having proper influence, which those, with whom the opinions of the day do not pass current, have instituted on his pretensions to the admiration of posterity.

To those whose motives of disapprobation proceed from a regard for tranquillity, exciting the wish that a general amnesty of oblivion might be extended to the past, first I will say, that

* It is with pleasure I have it in my power to do justice to that most gallant officer General Doyle, for in page 182 I have said, that "General Doyle, who although very ill at Rosetta when notice of this movement was sent to him, mounted his horse, &c." instead of which I should have stated, that "General Doyle, although very ill at Rosetta, upon a *mere rumour* of the intended movement, mounted his horse, &c."

the dissemination of this principle would tend to produce more wickedness in the world than has ever been yet committed; for what is there to intimidate ambition, in full possession of power, but the pen of the historian? What can guarantee mankind from the atrocities of a licentious despotism, but an assurance that the memory of great crimes is perpetuated in the records of history?

If the charges are not founded, the man yet lives to exonerate his injured character. If he cannot refute them, then must he sink into his grave loaded with the heavy weight of such offences, and the miserable prescience that execration shall attach to his memory, instead of the fame he coveted. That on his cenotaph posterity will inscribe, *ille venena Colcha et quicquid usquam concipitur nefas tractavit.*

Secondly, I shall assure them, that they need be under no apprehensions from any public considerations, for I do not impeach Napoleone Buonaparte, first Consul of France, but the general who bore such a Christian name, until he turned Mussulman, and who was guilty of the crimes alledged, when commanding an army of the Republic of France at the time her executive power was committed to a directory of five members, and when in the administration of her government he had no legal or acknowledged authority.

I have accused that officer who wrote the subjoined order against the gallant and generous Sir Sydney Smith,* that officer who

* *The General in Chief to the Chief of the Etat Major General.*

" The commander of the English squadron before Acre having had the barbarity to embark on board a vessel which was infected with the plague the French prisoners made in the two Tartans laden with ammunition, which he took near Caiffa; having been remarked at the head of the barbarians, in the sortie which took place on the 18th, and the English flag having been at the same time flying over many towers in the place, the barbarous conduct which the besieged

who can have no similarity of character with the first Consul of France, since the latter at his levee the other day desired the brother and sister of Sir Sydney to assure him, that *he had always entertained the highest esteem for him*, a sufficient proof that the first Consul cannot be, nor would he wish to be thought, that person who wrote the dishonourable order alluded to, much less the man who committed barbarities more heinous even than

those

besieged displayed in cutting off the heads of two volunteers which were killed, must be attributed to the English commander, a conduct which is very opposite to the honours which have been paid to English officers and soldiers found upon the field of battle, and to the attentions which have been shewn to wounded and to prisoners.

" The English being those who defend and provision Acre, the horrible conduct of Dgezzar, who caused to be strangled and thrown into water, with their hands tied behind their backs, more than two hundred Christians, inhabitants of this country, among whom was the secretary of a French consul, must be equally attributed to this officer, since from circumstances the Pacha found himself entirely dependant upon him.

" This officer having besides refused to execute any of the articles of exchange established between the two powers, and his proposals in all the communications which have taken place, and his conduct since the time that he has been cruizing here, having been those of a madman; my desire is, that you order the different commanders on the coast to give up all communication with the English fleet actually cruizing in these seas.

(Signed) " Buonaparte."

Such accusations many perhaps will think too contemptible to be noticed; but there are others who infatuated with Buonaparte might find in silence grounds for recrimination. I therefore shall briefly observe, first as to the massacre of the Christians, that Dgezzar Pacha, previous to the disembarkation of any individual from the English ships, caused thirty men in the French interest to be strangled, foreseeing that resistance would be made to the act if not perpetrated before Sir Sydney's landing; that the embarkation of the prisoners in vessels infected with the plague is a ludicrous charge, for would Sir Sydney, in that case, have placed an English guard on board over them. So contrary however is the fact, that ſome French sick embarked afterwards at Jaffa, for Damietta, in eight or ten Tartans, having heard of the kind treatment their comrades experienced, stood out to the Tigre then cruizing off, and surrendered themselves. The charge about cutting off the heads of dead men is frivolous; besides how could Sir Sydney, in his situation, abolish the practice; and it is urged with some effrontery by the man who a short time before butchered in cold blood near 4000 Turks. The abusive part is too low to be noticed, but I will exalt the victorious adversary of Buonaparte even higher than his character has yet reached, by relating, that when Sir Sydney found the French had raised the siege of Acre, he instantly sailed for Jaffa, off which place he stood

close

those with which Sir Sydney is charged. The first Consul himself has strongly marked the distinction, and every one otherwise would respect too much the dignity of constituted authorities to insinuate that a criminal is invested with the robes of supreme magistracy.

There is another person whom I have frequently mentioned, as having written a publication, which he presents to the world as a narrative of facts, but which is written with the palpable object of detracting from the fame of the British army, by charging it collectively and individually with a want of courage, talents, and enterprize, therefore a work respecting which there cannot be a divided opinion amongst the unprejudiced in every country. Had General Regnier confined himself to the vindication of the honour of the French army, such an attempt would have been natural and praise-worthy; but when personalities and illiberal aspersions mark every observation, which is also as replete with error as inveteracy, indignation cannot be too strongly expressed, and the maxim urged, which General Regnier should have known better to appreciate, "that the calumniation of an enemy is no evidence of courage."

When an officer writes, he should remember that his military character is involved, and that no violence of party can justify a wilful perversion of truth. As a man of honour, he should be above demeaning himself, by unjustly traducing the conduct of his enemies. The English Gazettes, and General Hutchinson's

close in to the shore, and saw a body of the enemy filing into the town. Immediately he cannonaded what he supposed was an enemy, and his shot evidently did considerable execution: at last by his glass he perceived that the column he was attacking consisted only of wounded and sick men riding on camels, almost all of the soldiers having bandages on some of their limbs, when he directly ordered the firing to cease, and allowed the whole convoy to pass on unmolested:—a trait which must procure for him the gratitude of Frenchmen, and the love of his own countrymen.

chinson's orders, might have directed General Regnier to a nobler line of conduct.

Is there an officer in the French service bold and wicked enough to say, that on the day of landing the British troops lay down in the boats (the folly of which assertion is palpable, except they were packed as old clothes); that, on the 13th, he saw two battalions throw down their arms? The concluding assertion of General Regnier is however his own, "that the English neither shewed courage, boldness, or talents in the field;" the insinuation is also his, that the merit of the landing was due only to the navy. The events of the campaign will refute the first charge; and the British sailors will not accept his compliment, for their fame does not require the whole portion of laurels, where others shared in acquiring them. Yet after all, with every attempt to tarnish the glory of that expedition, what does General Regnier recite? An uninterrupted series of successes on the part of the English; victory in every battle to them, and general disaster to the French. *Le feu bien nourri par les Anglois, la cavalerie Française culbuté, l'infanterie repoussé*, are the details of each action. It is true, he represents the English force as much more considerable than it actually was; but when military men learn that the British army which landed amounted only to 15,330 men, including 999 sick, they will judge for themselves if these troops behaved well.

When General Regnier speaks of the timidity of the movements, boasting that the French army run over in four days a space which the English creeped over in forty, he shews a considerable want of candour; for ignorant he is not of the obstacles which opposed themselves to the British advance, of the degrees of difficulty between an army accustomed to the climate, retiring on its depôt, passing through a country it had

so often traversed, and one which had just arrived, suffering from climate, totally ignorant of the *carte du pays*, obliged to draw all supplies of provisions and stores from the fleet, over a boccage sometimes for nine days together impassable, and where, in small boats, one hundred souls perished; an army which had at the same time to oppose its progress a formidable enemy, and whose feeble resistance could not have been anticipated. If the English had maintained their armies as the French have done this war, by robbing, pillaging the inhabitants, and never paying for a single article, certainly their movements might have been more rapid; and if the execration of mankind is not a counterbalancing disadvantage, their present system is indeed a prejudicial honesty.

In the returns of strength, nothing can be more inaccurate than General Regnier, as a few will shew.

He states the following to have been the numbers of particular corps in Egypt.

Corsican Rangers -	400	The true return was	209
Hussars of Hompesch	300	- - - -	140
11th reg. of dragoons	500	- - - -	55
Marines - -	2000	- - - -	400
British artillery with the Vizier, including artificers	500	- - - -	39
Sailors doing duty in the batteries	500	- - - -	300
	4200		1143

With

With regard to his statement of the combined force acting against Egypt, his observations are very superficial, since no considerable part of General Baird's army reached Cossir before the 8th of June; for Colonel Murray's arrival at the latter end of May with a few men cannot be deemed a reinforcement, on the scale General Regnier wishes to make the application; nor did the Indian army join General Hutchinson until after the fall of Alexandria. The British troops therefore who conquered Egypt, taking the surrender of Cairo as the epoch when the country was reduced, and which must be so considered, were those who originally landed under the command of Sir Ralph Abercromby, to whom, independent of 1000 men who came from Malta at the latter end of May, and the detachment of the 86th regiment from Suez, 150 men, no reinforcements arrived, and which army the French nearly doubled in numbers, exclusive of the vast superiority which possession of the country, a powerful cavalry and artillery afforded them. The Turks certainly altogether must not be excluded from a share in the triumph; but General Regnier exaggerates their numbers; and although they did contribute greatly to the success, still we must remember that this is the first occasion where their hordes have been honoured with any respectful attention by the French; yet also must we confess, that there is more reason after General Belliard's defeat, which affair however a superior general officer described with much humour, "as a parcel of sheep running from dogs without teeth."

Still, notwithstanding General Regnier's injustice, I cannot conclude these remarks without adding what is due to his talents, that the world has much reason to regret General Regnier did not exert his commanding abilities to investigate and

relate facts, and that various prejudices have prevented the military service from receiving that information which no officer was better qualified to give.

Since my work has been in the press, Vivant Denon, one of the Savans who accompanied General Buonaparte to Egypt, has published what was advertised to be a scientific exposition of the antiquities of that country, and which consequently was a labour warmly to be encouraged. Unfortunately, the philosopher proves himself a most obsequious courtier, using that bombast in the relation of the battles he was a spectator of, which has rendered every public French dispatch during the war, with some very few exceptions, ridiculous; and he at last terminates many exaggerations with the round assertion, that at Aboukir Buonaparte destroyed twenty thousand Turks, six thousand being killed, two thousand taken, and the remainder drowned, whilst there were but eight thousand altogether, as the reader will afterwards find. Such a perverson of fact, by a man of Mons. Denon's character, will make no favourable impression in honour of his countrymen; but if he has forgot what is due to truth, the world will not forget that this Savan was the distinguished favourite of Buonaparte; for that general, almost immediately previous to his leaving Egypt, sent the rest of the commission into Upper Egypt, contrary to a sacred promise, that whenever he returned to France, they should accompany him, and selected this man to be the companion of his fortunes. The boon was considerable, and Mons. Denon endeavours to repay his patron; but perhaps his former associates may not be so obsequious, irritated particularly as they must be at this second march being stolen upon them, by a publication which certainly anticipates, in some degree, yet will not lessen the value of theirs, some destined

tined parts of which have been shewn, when I had the good fortune to be present, and which surpass, in elegance and execution, all works of a similar nature which have yet appeared.*

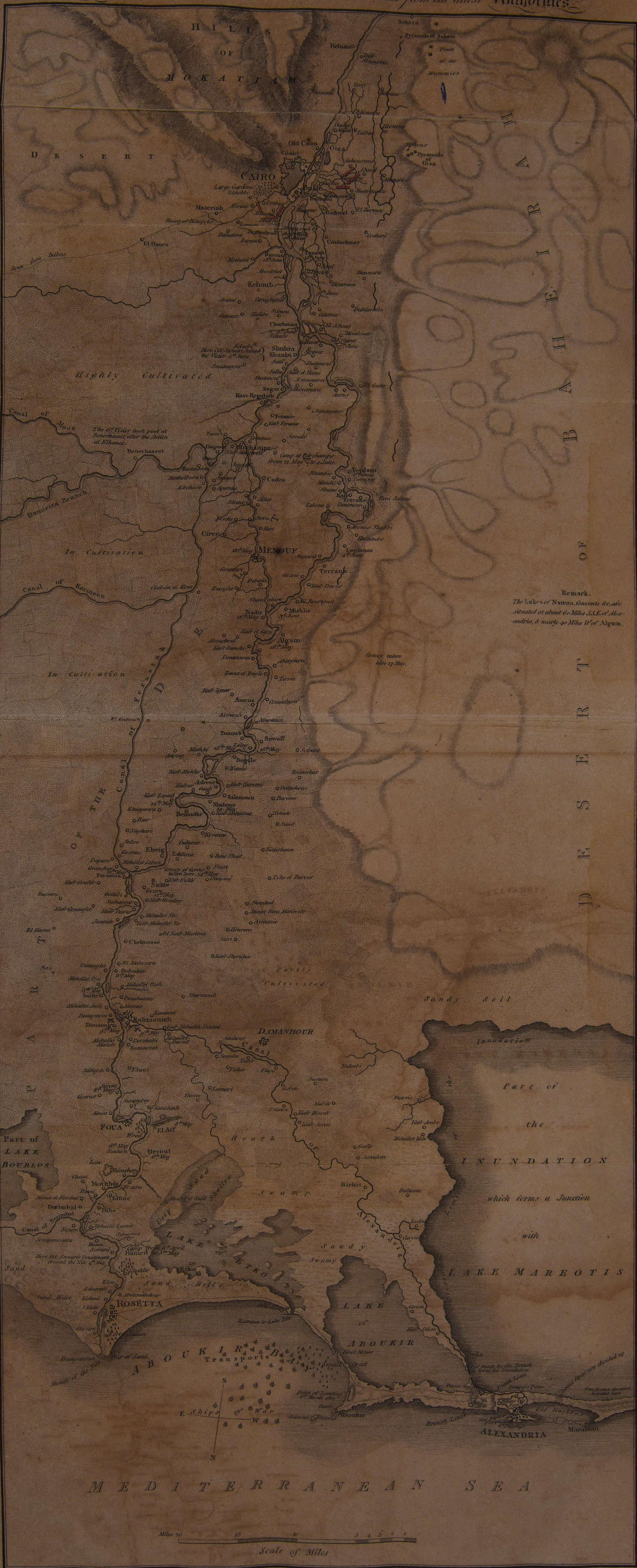
I have now to return my thanks to the officers who so kindly favoured me with the communications I required, and to express particular obligation to Captain Marley, of the staff corps, an officer whose zeal and abilities rendered very great service to Colonel Stuart in the Delta, with whose column he acted as quarter master general, for the maps of Egypt he furnished me with, and which so well exemplify his talents; and those officers of the military college, by whose united labours the original work was perfected during the campaign, notwithstanding the severity of their other duties. To Mr. Hopner, who accorded me, without the smallest hesitation, permission to have an engraving from a picture drawn by him of Sir Ralph Abercromby, the world as well as myself must acknowledge a debt of gratitude, since the portrait represents to life a hero, who is the pride of the British service, and "an honest man, which is the noblest work of God."

* Fourier, a gentleman of most considerable information, who made the discovery of the declination of the Zodiac in the Temples of Upper Egypt, and who proposed, in order to avoid distracting the world with any new theories, to publish his observations on that subject in Latin, for the discussion only of the superior order of society, has undertaken the compilation of this voluminous and extensive work, for the benefit of all the artists who contributed to its formation: Nouët gives the astronomical part; Redôuti the natural history, and nothing can exceed the beauty of his drawings; Fourier the mathematical division; and other men of science the various other branches. The public will also hereafter probably be gratified by some accounts on a smaller scale from Mr. Hamilton, secretary to Lord Elgin; Lieutenant Hayes of the Engineers, and Captain Legge of the Artillery, who, since the conquest of Egypt, have penetrated further than any of the French, proceeding near 100 miles beyond the Cataracts.

ERRATA.

Page 15, line 5, *for* 50th regiment, *read* 58th.
37, 3, *for* 24th, *read* 24 pounder.
37, 21, *for* ditto, *read* killed.
43, 32, *for* dare, *read* dared.
47, 26, *for* 20th, *read* 28th.
69, 12, 13, 14, and 15, *for* General Craddock's brigade was composed of the 18th, 79th, and 90th regiments, and General Doyle's of the 2d, 8th, and 30th regiments, *read* General Craddock's brigade was composed of the 8th, 18th, 79th, and 90th regiments, with the 12th dragoons, and a detachment of the 26th; General Doyle's of the 1st, 50th, 92d, and 30th.
70, 20, *for* on the rear, *read* in the rear.
80, 26, *for* obliged them, *read* obliged him.
97, 32, } 98, 1, 2, } *for* can, pitcher, flag, *read* vessel, pitcher, clay.
106, 14, *for* 150, *read* 250.
114, 8, *for* genetrate, *read* generate.
121, 22, *for* Achmed Bey, *read* Hassan Bey.
134, note, *for* remembered them, *read* remembered him.
142, 12, *for* qu'est qu'il y'a, *read* qu'est ce qu'il y'a.
214, note, *for* General Cavalier, *read* Colonel Cavalier.
216, 16, *for* their, *read* the.

A Map of the WESTERN BRANCH of the NILE from the latest Authorities



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HISTORY

OF THE

EXPEDITION TO EGYPT.

THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S ... Mahal Library

IT is not my intention to enter into a discussion whether the direction of a British force to Egypt, under the circumstances Europe then presented, was the most judicious disposal of it. That question would involve too large a sphere of politics; but certain it is, that any positive object was preferable to indeterminate counsels and feebly executed plans, which waste the soldier's health and spirit, compromise the honour of the army, and so materially prejudice the interest of a country.

After the attempt on Cadiz was abandoned, it became absolutely necessary to employ more advantageously an army which might justly be regarded as the *corps élit* of England, and which had been kept as a disposable force at so great an expence.

The troops, from so long a continuance at sea, in weather as violent as the oldest sailor ever remembered,* began to sink in mind and strength, and their unmerited failures tended still more to depress them.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie sympathised in the gallant feelings of the soldiery, was sensible to the expectations of his country, and did not shrink from the responsibility of his situation.

* It will be sufficient to mention, as a proof of the bad weather, that the fleet lost 80 anchors in Tetuan bay.

 Italy

Italy again and Spanish America for some time occupied his attention. But the news of the convention at Hohenlinden annihilated the first project, and the surrender of Malta directed his views to Egypt, rather than to the second.

At length, on the 25th of October, orders from England arriving to undertake that expedition, part of the fleet sailed on the 3d of November for Minorca, and the remainder, with Sir Ralph Abercrombie, direct for Malta, where it arrived on the 30th; and Lord Keith, with the division from Minorca, joined on the 14th of December.

At Malta the troops partially disembarked, while the ships were cleaning, in order to undergo the inspection of the Commander in Chief, a duty which this excellent officer never omitted. The abundance of fresh provisions, the comforts which the beautiful city of La Vàlette afforded, the luxury of the scenery, soon reanimated the troops, and rendered them completely fit for service. An addition was here also in fact made to the army, by the enlisting of Maltese to the number of five hundred, who engaged to act as pioneers; and officers were encouraged to hire others for servants, government allowing each one shilling per day; but being then unacquainted with the fidelity and honesty of these people, few chose to engage them.* Requisite stores, &c. having been collected, orders were issued for the re-embarkation of the army; and on the 20th of December the first division sailed for Marmorice,

* An arrangement which on all services would be advantageous, as supernumerary men of inferior stature with less pay might always be enlisted as bat men. Officers on their present allowance cannot afford to keep hired servants. An anecdote which occurred to one of the best and most gallant cavalry officers in the service may confirm this. A man asked of him eighty pounds per annum wages. "Do you know, my friend," said the major, "that you ask more than is given to a subaltern officer, who must live like a gentleman, and expose himself also to all the severities and dangers of the service?" "Ah, Sir," was his ingenuous reply, "I do indeed know their distress, and I pity the poor gentlemen from my heart."

where

where it arrived on the 28th. The second division followed on the 21st of December, and arrived on the 1st of January. It may be a question why the army did not sail direct for Egypt, and the event justifies the supposition that it would have experienced less resistance, since the L'Egyptienne, Justice, Regenerée, and Lodi, which carried out the important succours of troops and ammunition, had not at that time escaped into Alexandria. But it is to be answered, that the co-operation of the Turks, from the influence of their religion on the inhabitants, was highly essential, and that they had moreover promised to furnish gun-boats, horses to mount the cavalry, and troops under the immediate command of the Captain Pacha, provided the British fleet rendezvoused in Asia Minor. The result indeed proved that dependance on these succours to effect a landing was not advantageous.

Lord Keith's division in going to Marmorice fell in with some polacres coming from Alexandria, laden with rice, and on board of one of which was the celebrated Talien. No particular information was obtained from them, or rather the estimate they gave of the French force in Egypt was considered as grossly exaggerated.

It had been the intention of Lord Keith to rendezvous in the Bay of Macri, but finding that port was too open, and that Rhodes did not admit of the entrance of large ships of war, he reconnoitred the coast, and discovered Marmorice Bay, one of the finest harbours in the world, the entrance of which was so narrow and retired, that it could not be perceived till within a cable's length of the coast. The surprize, the pleasure of the soldiers can scarce be described, when they found themselves in a moment embayed by mountains, which formed the grandest scenery imaginable, and sailing in smooth water, although the instant before the fleet was labouring in a heavy gale

 of

of wind, and rolling about in a tremendous sea. Even ships, which could not carry outside a top gallant sail, were now suddenly becalmed, and obliged to be towed up the harbour by the boats of the fleet.

The sick were immediately landed and encamped; for the little town at Marmorice, at the head of the harbour, afforded no accommodation. Regiments were also successively disembarked, whilst the ships were cleaning, and the whole army frequently exercised to that manœuvre they were shortly to practise before the enemy in landing. The cavalry were kept on shore to receive the horses expected from Constantinople, and officers were partially employed in the purchase of others.*

The quarter-master general of the army, Colonel Anstruther, who had been sent from Minorca to prepare the Turks for the reception of the English, had not been able to procure a sufficient supply of fresh provisions to save the issue of the salted stores; but goat-flesh was yet obtained in sufficient abundance by individuals, and poultry was also plentiful †. The English, however, found that their character had preceded them from Europe, for every article was advanced in price four hundred per cent.

The horses for the cavalry at length arrived, and expectation was raised with eager hope to receive some of that species Turkey is so celebrated for; but the mortification was exces-

* One of the expeditions had nearly proved disastrous to some officers sent to the rebel Aga of Cudjas, whose attendants wished to take liberties, which though not unnatural to them, were highly repugnant to British ideas. Another was more advantageous, since Major Moore, of the 26th dragoons, at Macri, an ancient city of the Greeks, obtained as a present from the Aga three gold coins found there, and in the most perfect preservation. Two of them are of Pyrrhus, and one of Lysimachus.

† A Turkish market-place is sufficient to generate a plague. It is never cleaned, and blood flows on blood until a consistency of corruption is formed. The scene at Marmorice, where the butchery was so considerable, is indescribable.

sive,

sive, to see animals naturally so bad, and in such a shocking state, as to make the dragoons feel humiliation in being ordered to take charge of them. Every commanding officer solicited rather to serve with his corps as infantry; but the nature of the service the army was about to be employed on, rendered even such more desirable than none. However, out of several hundred horses, finally only two hundred were left for the cavalry, about fifty for the artillery, and the remainder shot, or sold for a dollar apiece. Miserable indeed would have been the state of the cavalry, had it not been amended by the horses purchased in the neighbourhood; but this supply was small, since it was a measure not pressed vigorously till too late; if previously adopted, it would have rendered the whole of the dragoons an effective force, and saved an enormous expence.

On the 8th of February commenced the most violent thunder and hail storm ever remembered, and which continued two days and nights intermittingly. The hail, or rather the ice stones were as big as large walnuts. The camps were deluged with a torrent of them, two feet deep, which, pouring from the mountains, swept every thing before it. The scene of confusion on shore by the horses breaking loose, and the men being unable to face the storm, or remain still in the freezing deluge, surpasses description. The ships in the harbour were in no less disorder from driving, loss of masts, &c. and the Swiftsure was struck by lightning. At night the firmament was, from the increasing flashes, in a state of constant and vivid illumination. To add to the terrific grandeur of this concussion of elements, signal guns of distress were frequently heard, and the howlings of wolves, jackalls, &c. re-echoed through the mountains at the back of the camp in the intervals, whenever the thunder ceased. It is not in the power of language to convey an adequate idea of such a tempest.

On

On the 16th of February General Moore, who had been sent from Marmorice on the 4th of January to the Grand Vizir's army at Jappa, returned with the same melancholy account of its wretched state, as Colonel Murray had brought in December. Weak as to numbers, without discipline, and infected with the plague, its co-operation scarcely offered an apparent advantage.*

The appointed time for the arrival of the Captain Pacha and the gun-boats had long elapsed. Only a few of the latter had joined; and it appeared evident from the continued delays, that the Turkish armament could not be ready for some time. Every moment became of most serious import, and particularly since the intelligence was confirmed of the escape of two frigates into Alexandria, whilst our ships, previously cruizing off, were watering at Cyprus. This news was really alarming, since it had already been ascertained that the French force in Egypt consisted of a much greater strength than Government supposed it to be, whilst the unexpected state of the Turkish army considerably weakened the projected means of attack. But the order was positive, the object urgent, and the character of the British army rested on the attempt. The weather had been very violent for some time, and all the pilots, accustomed to the Egyptian coast, declared that till after the equinox it would be madness to attempt a landing. They were till then unacquainted with the daring of British seamen, and saw, to their astonishment, the army all embarked on the 20th of February, yet it was not till the 23d that the fleet could weigh anchor, when it sailed with a very fresh breeze. The quantity of vessels was

* The Grand Vizir wished to muster the troops; but as each chief drew for as many rations as he chose to demand, which this inspection would have checked, a few shots were fired at his highness's tent in the morning it was to take place, which hint was well understood, and the muster was immediately countermanded.

such,

such, about 175 sail, as to require a complete day for the whole to assemble in the roads.

A nobler sight could not be beheld. The number of ships, the gaiety of the brave men on board, exciting reflections on the awful destiny of the expedition, not only as relating to those immediately acting in it, but as affecting the dearest interests of Great Britain, afforded a scene for contemplation, in the highest degree gratifying and impressive.

To the credit of the army during its stay at Marmorice, no complaint had ever been made by the inhabitants; on the contrary, the Turks seemed to be inspired, for the first time, with an esteem for Christians.*

The army wanted for many comforts which that part of Asia Minor could not produce; although several vessels, taken on their way from France to Alexandria, had afforded a very seasonable supply, they being laden with all the epicurean luxuries she could send out.†

The greatest misfortune was the total want of information respecting Egypt. Not a map to be depended upon could be procured, and the best draught from which information could be formed, and which was distributed to the generals, proved ridiculously incorrect.

Sir Sydney Smith was the only officer who knew at all the locality of the coast, and he certainly, as far as he had seen, gave perfect information. But he had never been in the interior of the country. Captain Boyle, at Minorca, had given an idea of the disposition of the French army, which, considering the

* The ladies of the army might boast of animating them with the tenderest sentiments of attachment. Some attempts were made at the embarkation to surprize and carry off several; and a French lady, taken on her way to Egypt, had a very narrow escape.

† It is but too characteristic of the French, that on board of these ships, amongst many other fantastical packages, was a cargo of fans, most ingeniously indecent.

caution

caution it was necessary for him to use, and the vigilance which guarded him, did his zeal and address great honour.*

Mr. Baldwin, the British consul at Alexandria, who had been sent for from Naples by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, on account of his respectable character and influence in Egypt, could not be supposed to give much military information.

It is, however, a positive fact, extraordinary as it may appear, that so little was Sir Ralph Abercrombie acquainted with the strength of the enemy he was preparing to attack, that he rated their force, at the greatest calculation, at only ten thousand French, and five thousand auxiliaries, then exceeding the number stated in the official information sent from home, and on which the expedition was originally formed.

The British army consisted of the following regiments, amounting to 15,330 men, including 999 sick, 500 Maltese, and all kinds and descriptions of people attached to an army except officers. Its effective force in the field could not be therefore, at the highest computation, above twelve thousand ; and indeed that number, within two hundred, was the return given in to the Commander in Chief.

Guards	---Major General Ludlow.
1st or Royals 2 Battns 54th 92d	Major General Coote.
8th 13th 90th	Major General Craddock.
2d or Queen's 50th 79th	Major General Lord Cavan.

* Captain Boyle was wrecked in the Cormorant off Damietta, when on his way to Alexandria in a cartel, and made prisoner, contrary to the usages of war.

18th 30th 44th 89th	Brigadier General Doyle.
Minorca De Rolles Dillon's	Major General Stuart.

RESERVE.

40th Flank Comp. 23d 28th 42d 58th Corsican Rangers Detach. 11th Drag. Do. Hompesch's Reg.	Major General Moore.
12th Dragoons 26th Dragoons	Brigadier General Finch.

Artillery and Pioneers, Brigadier General Lawson.

It must be allowed, even at the calculation of the supposed strength of the enemy, that to attack with such a force the possessors of a country, strengthened by the advantages of strong fortified posts, a numerous cavalry, powerful artillery, and a perfect acquaintance with those few points where a debarkation was practicable, was an enterprize of the most audacious character. What then must be the astonishment of all military men at the success of the expedition, when the real force of the enemy is ascertained?

The fleet had not stood long on its course, before one of the Greek vessels, laden with mules, foundered, and one man alone was saved. That this was the only accident is surprising, considering the state of these ships. They were, however, in-

capable of beating up with the men of war, and the English transports, or were afraid to keep at sea, consequently most of them separated, which was a serious disaster, as on board of these vessels the cavalry and artillery horses were chiefly embarked.*

February the 26th a convoy from England with provisions, under the escort of Captain Young, of the La Pique, fell in with the fleet. On the 1st of March a signal for land was made by the leading frigate, which proved to be the coast near Arabs Tower, and on the next morning the whole fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay; the men of war riding exactly where the battle of the Nile was fought, for the Foudroyant chafed her cables against the L'Orient's wreck, whose anchor she afterwards fished up.

The melancholy intelligence of the death of Major Makarras, and capture of Major Fletcher, of the Engineers, was here first announced. These officers had been sent in the Penelope, before the fleet sailed from Marmorice, to reconnoitre the coast; but when off Alexandria they got into the Petterel, and in her boat, in the night of the 27th of February, proceeded into Aboukir Bay, in order to discover the proper point of landing. In vain was Major Makarras advised not to enter too much into the *cul de sac* of the bay. His sense of duty and enterprising spirit urged him to advance, and he even landed on the subsequent ground of debarkation. At dawn of day as he was returning, a French gunboat, the commander of which had been informed of their reconnoitering, and had expressly sailed out of the lake Maadie, where she had been stationed, appeared to windward, and instantly bore down. Another tack would have enabled the boat to have escaped; but unfortunately, the gun-boat sailed too well. When all hope

* Some of the polacres had neither quadrant nor log on board.

vanished,

vanished, Major Fletcher cried out that they would surrender; but the French fired a volley of musquetry, by which unfortunate discharge Major Makarras was killed; Major Fletcher and the boat's crew were then allowed quarter, and carried as prisoners into Alexandria, and from thence to General Menou at Cairo. The death of Major Makarras was, as well as the severest private loss, a public misfortune: his ability justly obtained the greatest confidence, and placed him in the high station he held in the army. His former services justified the hopes of his acquiring still greater character; and while the man was mourned by his friends, the loss of the officer was universally deplored. It is not to be supposed that the French commander could from cruel inhumanity disregard Major Fletcher's submission, rather let us hope it was not premeditated and wanton murder, but the inconsiderate act of the sailors.

The state of the weather was such as to prevent the possibility of landing, which appeared a fatal misfortune; since, on the capture of the boat, containing officers of engineers, no doubt could be supposed to remain on the minds of the enemy, as to the intention of the English; and the present delay gave them ample leisure for preparation. But if they had not already obtained sufficient information, another untoward occurrence must have assured them of every particular they could require.

On the morning of the 2d of March, a frigate was seen standing into Alexandria. Pursuit was unavailing; she reached the harbour, and hoisting French colours, proved unequivocally her nation. It will scarcely be credited that a French frigate, unexpectedly finding herself in the midst of an English fleet, should have been so capable directly to disguise herself, as to continue unsuspected on her course with it, which she did the whole day before, answering the various signals made, and yet never attract the smallest suspicion; nevertheless, it is fact,

and must remain on record, as an honourable anecdote to the credit of the French captain of the Regenerée. During the night the brig the Lodi also entered, but which was not then known.

On the 7th, the weather moderating, the general went in a boat to reconnoitre the shore. Sir Sydney Smith at the same time, with three armed launches, proceeded to the entrance of the lake; but whilst he was gone in his own boat to another point, a signal was made for the men to land. Lieutenant Brown, of the Foudroyant, instantly with his party jumped on shore, and drove off about fifty men, who defended the block-house, at the entrance of the lake Maadie; but a body of the enemy coming down, Lord Keith, who was on board the Fury bomb viewing this affair, threw out a signal for their return. They consequently came off, bringing with them some poultry and the ferry-man as their trophies. They had attempted to burn a gun-boat at the entrance of the lake, but the fire did not catch, and then they tried to scuttle her, in which they also failed: the next day she was taken. The ferry-man could not give much information; he had never troubled his head with any thing but aqua dente, a pernicious brandy, made of dates.

The wind continuing moderate, and the swell of the sea subsiding, on the morning of the 8th, at two o'clock, the first division of the army, consisting of the reserve under the orders of Major Gen. Moore, the brigade of Guards under Major Gen. Ludlow, and part of the 1st brigade, composed of the Royals, 1st battalion of the 54th, 200 of the 2d battalion, the whole amounting to about five thousand five hundred men, under the command of Major General Coote, assembled in the boats, the remainder of the 1st and 2d brigade being put into ships close to the shore, that a support might be quickly given after the first landing was effected. At three o'clock the signal was made for

for their proceeding to rendezvous near the Mondovi, anchored about gun-shot from the shore; but the extent of the anchorage was so great, that the assembling and arrangement of the boats could not be completed till near nine o'clock. And here let the reader pause for a moment, to dwell on this solemn scene, and imagine to himself the feelings, the impatience, the suspence which agitated every mind; the hopes and fears which distracted the spectators; the anxiety of the gallant Sir Ralph Abercrombie for the success of this hardy enterprize, and the fate of the intrepid men who so cheerfully engaged to execute his orders. The heart of the brave man will beat high with enthusiasm; and may those who have hitherto with indifference regarded the service of the army, from this moment pay it that tribute of respect which is the recompence of the soldier. May those young men who are devoted to the military life seriously consider its important duties, and seek to render themselves capable of commanding, ever remembering that in the course of their service the fame and lives of such soldiers must be hazarded to their judgment.

The right flank of the boats was protected by the Cruélle cutter and the Dangereuse and Janissary gun vessels; the left by the Entreprenant cutter, Malta schooner, and Negresse gun vessel; on each flank were also two launches of the fleet, armed to supply the place of the Turkish gun boats which had separated on the passage. Sir Sydney Smith, with a detachment of seamen directed to co-operate with the army, had charge of the launches, which contained the field artillery. The Tartarus and the Fury bomb vessels were placed in their proper situation, to cover with their fire the landing; and the Peterell, Camelion, and Minorca were moored with their broadsides to the shore. At nine o'clock the signal was made for the boats to advance. They sprung forwards at the same instant, and the whole scene

became

became animation. The French, to the number of two thousand men, posted on the top of the sand-hills, forming the concave arch of a circle on the front of about a mile, (in the centre of which elevated itself a nearly perpendicular heighth of 60 yards, apparently inaccessible,) had looked down with wonder at the preparation, and since confessed that they could not believe the attempt would even have been made; but when they saw the boats moving with extraordinary rapidity to the shore, and the armed vessels opening their guns, they could no longer doubt the seriousness of the intention, and directly poured all the fire which their artillery on the heights (12 pieces) and the castle of Aboukir could discharge. The quantity of shot and shells, and as the boats approached, the shower of grape and musquetry, seemed so to plough the surface of the water, that nothing on it could live: for a moment it even checked and compelled some of the boats rather to close upon the left;* but the impulse returned with increased ardour, and pressing through the storm they forced to the beach. The reserve leaped out of the boats on the shore, and formed as they advanced: the 23d and 40th rushed up the heights with almost supernatural energy, never firing a shot, but charging with the bayonet the two battalions which crowned it, breaking them and pursuing till they carried the two Nole hills in the rear, which commanded the plain to the left, taking at the same time three pieces of cannon. The 42d regiment had landed and formed as on a parade, then mounted the position, notwithstanding the fire from two pieces of cannon and a battalion of infantry. The moment they gained the height, two hundred French dragoons attempted to charge them, but were as quickly repulsed.

* This little disorder was also occasioned by some of the boats being struck and sinking, when others stopped to save the men.

The

The boats of the Guards had scarce felt the beach, and the men began to jump out, before the same body of cavalry, who had rallied behind the sand hills, charged suddenly upon them. This unexpected attack caused a momentary disorder, but the 50th regiment, formed already on their right, by their fire checked the enemy, and gave time for the Guards to present a front, when the cavalry again retreated with considerable loss. The 54th and Royals,* from being in transport boats, did not reach the shore so soon as the others, but landed at the instant a column of six hundred infantry was advancing with fixed bayonets through a hollow against the left flank of the Guards. The French on seeing them hesitated, then firing a volley, retreated. This moment of exultation cannot be described, but the most callous mind must be sensible to its effect.

The French finding the British in full possession of the heights, and General Coote advancing with the Guards and his brigade, run from all points of their position, but in the rear sand hills maintained for about an hour and a half a scattered fire, when they were finally obliged to retreat, having lost three hundred men, eight pieces of cannon, and many horses. The boats returned immediately for the remainder of the army, which, by the great exertions of the navy, were all landed by the evening. Sir Ralph, impressed with the strongest feelings of gratitude and admiration, came on shore, and took up a position, distant about three miles, with his right to the sea, and left on Lake Maadie; at the same time occupying the battery on the tongue of land at the entrance of the lake, but not in time to prevent the escape of eighty French over the ferry. The loss of British amounted in this affair to near five hundred

* It is to be regretted that no provision is made for the sailors in the transport service who are wounded, or extraordinary encouragement given to them when employed on such dangerous duty as the disembarkation of troops. The measure would be politic and just.

men,

men, amongst whom were several gallant officers.* General Regnier asserts, that the infantry laid down in the bottom of the boats, whilst the sailors, indifferent to the French artillery, rowed with vigour to the shore. What kind of boats must those flats have been, which would have allowed of such an extension? Is it possible that any one can be ignorant of the necessity of troops in all debarkations, wedging as close as possible together in an upright position, or how could fifty men be carried in each boat? Malignity should always thus defeat itself.

No British soldier would detract in the smallest degree from praise justly conferred on the navy; but the seamen themselves will indignantly reject such ungenerous and malevolent applause.

From a consideration of the enemy's strength, and an observation of the map, military men must pronounce that a landing in the face of such a position was nearly impracticable, where both parties did their duty; but it would be unjust to insinuate that the French did not behave with spirit and resolution. Their defence was strictly good, and the conquest one of those singular phœnomena which occasionally occur to animate the brave with a confidence, that brilliant exertions, supported by persevering courage, may surmount mathematical improbabilities, and snatch a victory where cold calculation would predict a certain defeat. The event, however, does not in all cases justify the councils; but Sir Ralph Abercrombie's peculiar situation must be considered, and weigh heavily in the enquiry. Had he been alarmed at the formidable appearance of the position, it is too much to be feared that his prudence, however just, would

* Captain Warren of the Guards, the son of Sir John Borlase Warren, was particularly lamented, as one of the most promising young men in the army.

have

have involved himself and army in eternal and irretrievable obloquy.

Aboukir Bay was the only port where the debarkation could have been made on the Egyptian coast, for there only could the shipping remain in safety; and it was absolutely necessary that the communication with the fleet, even daily, should be preserved, for on it the army not only was to depend for provisions, stores, &c. but, as it was first supposed, for water.

It is true Bonaparte landed near Arabs Tower, and trusted to his fortune; but he had no European force to dispute his progress, and he well knew the paltry resistance which Alexandria could then oppose to him.*

Some may suppose that the bay of Jaffa offered a securer point of debarkation; but the state of the Grand Vizir's army must be considered, and the obstacles the Desart presented to Europeans, unaccustomed to the climate.

Sir Sydney Smith, who had landed and reconnoitred this ground the year before, proposed that the battery at the entrance of Lake Maadie † should be maintained, when carried in the evening of the 7th, or its assault combined at all events with the operations of the landing. Such a manœuvre would certainly have been masterly, as in either case its advantages must have been decisively great. If fifteen hundred men had passed into the lake, and made for the narrow neck of the isthmus,

* The author does not write to detract from the French; but it is the duty of an historian to correct false statements. The boasted assault of Alexandria was a contemptible as well as cruel action, unworthy altogether of Bonaparte's fame. Policy may excuse the gasconade of his dispatches, but not the wanton storm of a city, for the sake of striking terror, and fixing an impression of the French name throughout Egypt. The murder of the garrison was a barbarous violence, and the indulgence granted to his troops, of a three hour's sacking of the place, an act of unjustifiable inhumanity.

† The passage is about two hundred yards wide, and was made about eighteen years since by the sea breaking down the dyke, which had been built ages back to recover from the ocean that country now Lake Maadie.

about

about half a mile in breadth, and to which our advanced posts were pushed on the evening of the 8th, the French must have abandoned their position at Aboukir, or exposed themselves to be taken in the rear, and have their retreat cut off; had only gun-boats forced in on the morning of the landing, the French would have suffered most severely from their fire in crossing the plain a good mile in extent, immediately in rear of their position. Sir Ralph Abercrombie was aware of this reasoning, but feared to divide his force, not knowing the numbers of the enemy which might oppose the landing at Aboukir, and the boats not being sufficiently numerous to admit of his detaching from that principal service.

After the action, the army employed itself in digging to find water, as Sir Sydney assured the troops that wherever date trees grew, water must be near. The fact proved so, and the Commander in Chief found himself relieved from an anxiety which might otherwise have determined him still to relinquish the enterprize.*

The French commander of Aboukir castle refusing to surrender, the Queen's and 26th dismounted dragoons were ordered to blockade it. On the 9th of March the army advanced its position a short way, and were posted in three lines. On the 10th some skirmishing between the advanced posts took place; twenty Corsican Rangers were taken, and the surgeon of the corps, Mr. Smith, by the sudden advance of a body of cavalry; Colonel Spencer, who had been out reconnoitring with General Moore, and Captain Money, of the 11th dragoons, narrowly escaped.

On the 10th Captain Marley, with Captain Stuart of the

* An Arab came to Sir Sydney Smith, and shewed him a well, which he said had been closed by him ever since the French landed. An act of friendship which augured favourably of the general disposition.

Mondovi,

Mondovi, went in a boat up Lake Maadie, and landed on the canal of Alexandria, near to the isthmus, and ascending the heighth on which the citadel of the British entrenched camp was afterwards constructed, they discovered the rear of a column passing into the lines before Alexandria.

Having completed their reconnoitring at this point, they passed across the lake, and landed at Arisch, but obtained there no intelligence; from thence they returned to camp. The necessary stores being brought on shore, a depôt formed, and an hospital established on the beach, Sir Ralph Abercrombie moved the army on the 12th to Mandora Tower, about four miles, where it encamped in three lines. A body of French cavalry skirmished the whole way with the advanced guard, but no serious opposition was made.

On the 13th the army marched to attack the French, posted on the ridge of heights, which the British afterwards encamped on during the blockade of Alexandria. The enemy had received a reinforcement of two half brigades of infantry, and a regiment of cavalry from Cairo, and other corps from Rosetta, making their total force about six thousand men, of which six hundred were cavalry, with between twenty and thirty pieces of cannon. Their position was on very commanding ground, the approach to which formed a fine glacis for the whole range of fire from their numerous artillery. As Sir Ralph Abercrombie determined to turn their right, their left being refused, the English army marched in two lines and column of regiments from the left, the reserve covering the movement on the right, and keeping parallel with the first line. Captain Hillyar had the command of the launches in the lake.

It had not advanced out of the wood of date trees, which was in front of Mandora Tower, before the enemy left the heights on which they had been formed, and moved down by their

 right,

right, commencing a heavy fire of musquetry, and from all their cannon, on the 92d regiment, which formed the advanced guard of the left column. At the same time the cavalry, under the orders of General Bron, charged down a height on the 90th regiment, forming the advanced guard of the right column. This regiment, undismayed, firmly maintained its ground, and allowing the cavalry to approach, fired such a volley as completely altered their direction, and compelled them to skirt along the front and then retreat with the greatest precipitation. A few of the dragoons, however, reached the ranks, and were bayonetted in their attempt to break through. Colonel Latour Maubourg was himself desperately wounded, and the loss of the whole very great. The discipline and steadiness of the 90th regiment were most honourable and praise worthy; and if even the charge of the French had been more vigorous, their intrepidity and firmness would have rivalled the conduct of the Welsh Fuzileers at the battle of Minden. Major General Craddock instantly formed his brigade, who executed the manœuvre, notwithstanding the heavy fire they were now under, with the most regular order and precision. The conduct of the 92d had been no less meritorious. Opposed to a tremendous fire, and suffering severely from the French line, they never receded an inch, but maintained the contest alone until the marines and the rest of the line came to their support; and yet these are the regiments which General Regnier impudently accuses of laying down their arms. The army now formed in two lines; the reserve continuing in column on the right, the Guards in rear of the right of the line as a support to the centre, and General Doyle's brigade moving in the rear of the left, in column. In this order the army pushed on with the greatest vigour, preserving always the strictest regularity; whilst the foreign brigade emulated the British.

The

The French kept up a constant fire of musquetry and artillery, but did not oppose afterwards in line, only as tirailleurs. Had there been a few more cavalry with the army, the enemy must have lost all their artillery, and their retreat would have been probably cut off, or so impeded that the conquerors might have entered the works before the town, with the fugitives.

As the army persevered in its advance, the French were compelled to quit their position, and retreat over the plain into their own lines on the heights before Alexandria; but before they could wholly effect this, Dillon's regiment, who had moved to the left, charged with the bayonet, and carried two guns placed on the canal of Alexandria, turning them immediately against the enemy. Their conduct, intrepidity, and steady advance, obtained the admiration of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who in the general orders next day particularized this corps. Sir Ralph Abercrombie wishing to follow up his success, and by a coup de main to carry the important position the French had now retired on, advanced across the plain, ordering General Hutchinson, with the second line, to move forwards to the left, and secure a projecting rising ground; General Moore was directed to the right, that both flanks might be assaulted at the same time. The first line remained in the plain rather to the right. General Hutchinson advanced upon the green hill, and occupied the whole of it; he detached the 44th regiment in front to carry a bridge on the canal of Alexandria, in the bottom between that hill and the French position. A post of infantry and cavalry defended it with two guns, but the 44th charged them with the bayonet, and occupied the bridge. The enemy now began to play from all their field artillery and heavy ordnance. General Hutchinson's column found some shelter from the inequalities of the ground, and the reserve was protected by the broken surface of the soil on the right,

although

although the French advanced two field pieces to the Nole hill in front of the left against them. The centre remained totally exposed. Whilst Sir Ralph Abercrombie reconnoitred, the army continued under the most terrible and destructive fire from the enemy's guns, to which troops were ever exposed. The work of death was never more quick, or greater opportunity afforded for destruction. The French, no longer in danger, had only to load, and fire. Aim was unnecessary, the bullets could not but do their office, and plunge into the lines. For several hours did the English remain patiently suffering this exterminating fire, and never betrayed the least irresolution. If a word was heard, it contained only a wish to be led on to the assault. At length Sir Ralph Abercrombie deemed it prudent not to attempt the forcing of the heights, supposing that they were commanded by Fort Crétin, in which case, for the want of artillery, he was not prepared to maintain them; the army was therefore withdrawn at sun set, still marching as if on parade, and ordered to reoccupy that position which was so shortly to be the theatre of its glory and revenge. This action had been highly creditable to the gallantry and discipline of the British, whose movements were executed with the same steadiness and accuracy as if at a review in England. The conduct, exertions, and animating example of the general officers universally, were never exceeded; and when it is remembered, that the guns were dragged by sailors through a deep and burning sand, the rapidity of their movements and their success is highly meritorious. Happy would it have been, however, that the army had never advanced beyond the first captured position; as far as that it had gloriously triumphed. The loss which it had sustained, though considerable, was unavoidable; but it was a fatal movement in the event which brought it so considerably within cannon shot of the second position, and where

it

it was halted so long. If instead even of finally abandoning so important an object, part of the army had been marched to the left, obliquely over the ground which lay between Lake Maadie and Lake Mariotis subsequently inundated, and then formed to the right when the left reached the line of Pompey's Pillar, thus attacking the south front of the position, whilst the right of the eastern front was attacked at the same time, no doubt can now exist of its having been easily carried, and most probably the towns of Alexandria, Old and New. Forts Crétin and Caffarelli could have opposed but little resistance; and if they had held out, must have surrendered long before the arrival of General Menou. Let it not be objected that this knowledge was only acquired at the subsequent surrender of the city. Had not the appearance of that ground, from the nitrous salt upon the surface, and partial sappiness, been deemed evident proofs of its total marshy nature, its examination would have opened the weak part of the position, and rendered the movement obvious; but the eye was then unacquainted with the phœnomena, and the deception was natural. The loss of the English was about 1100 men killed and wounded. The French of course did not suffer so much, but above 500 of them were put hors de combat: four field pieces were also taken, and a great quantity of ammunition. Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the action had a horse shot.

The position now occupied by the British was by nature strong; the right was projected a quarter of a mile, on very high ground, and extended to the large and magnificent ruins of a palace, built in the time of the Romans, within fifty yards of the sea. The breadth of this promontory, as it may be called, of sand hills and old ruins was not more than three hundred yards; it gradually sloped down; an intermediate valley of an equal distance lay between it and the receding sand hills,

which

which formed the rest of the position, excepting that near the canal of Alexandria was level ground. The front of the position formed from the right of the ground on which the Guards were encamped, an oblique line to the left. On the extreme point of the left, and about a quarter of a mile on the canal, two batteries were ordered to be constructed as the point d'appui of the left of the whole position. Lake Maadie protected the rear of the left, by flowing close to the canal. The extent from the sea to the lake was about a mile. In front of the right was a continuation of the uneven ground. Before the centre a slope descended into the plain, which commenced in front of the left, and extended as far the French position. On this plain cavalry might well act, although as it approached the British lines, the ground was covered with large stones and ruins, the scite of the whole having been originally that of a Roman colony.

On the projecting ground of the right were posted the 58th and 28th regiments, which corps defended the ruins and redoubts. These were supported by the 23d regiment, the 42d, 40th, and Corsican Rangers. In the interval and flat, between those heights and the right of the centre, were the cavalry of reserve, then the Guards on the hill. On their left, forming echellon, were the Royals, 92d, 2d, 54th, and 64th; then the 8th, 18th, 90th, 13th, also in echellon to their right brigade. At right angles, with their left thrown back facing the lake, and to protect the canal, were the 27th, 79th, and 56th posted. The second line was formed from the right, by the Minorca, De Rolles, Dillon's, the Queen's, 44th, 89th, 30th; the dismounted cavalry of the 12th dragoons, and then the mounted part of this regiment, and the 26th. The marines and 92d had marched to Aboukir, and the Queen's replaced them. On the right, and within a hundred and fifty yards of the shore,

were

were stationed four cutters. The fleet cruized constantly off Alexandria.

The French position was parallel, but still more formidable. A very high and almost perpendicular ridge of hills, extended from the sea near to the canal of Alexandria, where, gradually sloping to its level, they formed the main position of this front; but in advance of their right, they occupied a tongue of land, which projected a mile parallel to the canal of Alexandria, and which obliged the English advanced posts to be thrown back considerably, thus forming an obtuse angle. In the centre of the principal line rose with deceitful grandeur Fort Crétin, in the left of its rear appeared Fort Caffarelli, Pompey's Pillar on its right, Cleopatra's Needle on the left, and the city of Alexandria extending into the sea, and at the extremity of a long neck of land the Pharos. At the back of the town the masts of the shipping in the western harbour were visible. In the eastern harbour, formed by the Pharos and some rocks, on one of which is built a tower, called the Pharillon, were two or three polacres and gun-boats. The whole presented the most interesting appearance, in an historical as well as military point of view; for whose mind could be insensible to the sensations ground so celebrated must inspire? Wherever the eye could measure, objects of the greatest character, even some of the wonders of the world, attracted its attention, and the very ruins under the feet were sacred from their antiquity.

The army, independent of its severe military duties, was now incessantly and most laboriously at work in constructing the batteries, bringing up the guns, and forming a depôt of heavy artillery and ammunition; but the want of horses and camels was most distressingly felt. The provisions were obliged to be daily brought by the men from the magazines, distant a mile and a half. The heavy casks of spirits required great labour to roll

 through

through the sand, and the date tree for fuel was brought from a considerable distance, and when obtained it would scarcely burn; the smoke of it was also dreadfully pungent to the eyes. Water, however, was found in abundance, and very good. The 13th regiment dug into an aqueduct of running fresh water, well arched over, but the source or outlet of which was never ascertained; the Arabs themselves could give no information respecting it, and seemed lost in astonishment when regarding this valuable discovery. A market with some difficulty was established, and regulated by the assiduous care and ability of Mr. Baldwin, whose assistance proved of great service to the army; still the supply of sheep was precarious, as the Arabs brought them with great hazard to themselves, General Menou having given orders that any one detected in the attempt should instantly be shot; notwithstanding which the *Auri sacra fames* overcame the strong sensation of fear even in the most timid and abject wretches in the world, for such certainly are Egyptian peasants.

Tents were now ordered to be brought up. Hitherto the army had no covering but their blankets or great coats, although the nights had been intensely cold, and the damp exhalations of the ground piercingly chilly. The thermometer was frequently below 50 degrees.

On the 10th a report having been sent in from the advanced guard on the left, that a patrole of the enemy was advancing, the major of brigade brought orders for the cavalry to turn out. As the greater part were gone to water, Colonel Archdale could only collect sixty men, with which he marched, but when he reached the picquet, he took that also with him, which increased his force to eighty men. With these he advanced briskly for about three miles, till he came up with the enemy, who, according to General Regnier, consisted of a company

pany of infantry and fifty hussars: their total number was about one hundred and fifty men (which they acknowledged themselves to be) under the command of General D'Estin. Colonel Archdale, conceiving that he had orders to charge from General Finch, who was coming up, and who had sent his brigade major forwards, instantly detached Lieutenant Lowestein with twelve men to attack the left flank of the cavalry, while he charged in front with the main body. General D'Estin posted his infantry from the lake to the left of the canal, and drew up the hussars on the subsequently inundated ground a little in the rear of his infantry. Colonel Archdale with his small detachment pressed on to the attack with the greatest ardour, and breaking through the infantry, who fired a volley, passed on to the hussars, who as immediately fled. The British cavalry pursued, killing and wounding several of them, but the main body, being better mounted, escaped. The dragoons were returning in file, with their horses blown, considerably reduced from the enemy's fire in the first attack, by which Colonel Archdale had lost his arm: imagining that the French infantry were prisoners, and forgetting that no guard had been left over them, since all had inconsiderately followed in the pursuit, they advanced within twenty yards of the French again, when General D'Estin ordered his men to fire, which they did with severe effect. The cavalry, thus surprised, instantly inclined away to their left, and hastened out of the reach of the fire. Thus terminated an affair, which cost the army two officers wounded and three taken; seven men killed, six wounded, and twelve taken; 42 horses killed or wounded.

Although there had been considerable gallantry displayed on the part of the officers and men, Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the orders expressed his displeasure: he admired the spirit, but was obliged to restrain an excess of zeal which oftener would

 prove

prove disastrous than advantageous. Partial affairs were not an object, when so shortly the utmost energy of a concentrated force was to be exerted.

The same day the death of Colonel Brice, of the Guards, was announced by the return of a flag of truce, which had been sent in to the French lines to enquire after his fate. On the night of the 14th he had been field officer on duty, and when going his rounds missed his way, which it was impossible almost to prevent, as the mirage so deceived the sight. Wandering into the French line of posts, he was attacked, severely wounded, and robbed. For three days he lingered in great pain. The intelligence of his decease, aggravated by the manner of it, threw a melancholy over the army. To alleviate these regrets, however, on the same day Aboukir Castle surrendered, and the Capitain Bey, with two sail of the line, several frigates and small Turkish vessels, having on board the remainder of the cavalry, arrived.

The castle of Aboukir had not been besieged before the 13th, as powder and shot in Egypt were valuable articles, and this fortress was not a very essential post: but Sir Ralph Abercrombie at last decided on attacking it, and particularly as the French contrived to send supplies to it from Alexandria in boats. These boats were constantly passing to and fro, and the navy could not intercept them. Two batteries were erected against the fort, and some bomb ketches aided the attack. Round the castle is a ditch of uncommon depth, which made it difficult to assault even where a breach was made; but the commandant did not render that measure necessary. On the fifth day he surrendered: the same engineer now commanded the place, who had besieged it, when the Turks defended it for eight days after the defeat and dreadful havock of their army in the year 1799. Aboukir Castle is a most wretched place, the

the rooms absolute dungeons; twelve French guns and abundance of ammunition were found in the fort. The garrison amounted to 190 men, although the Gazette return, from some error, states only 140.

It will not be totally irrelevant to correct Bonaparte's account of the victory he gained over the Turks at Aboukir, which describes their force as amounting to seventeen thousand men, the whole of which he states to have been either killed or taken. The consequent importance of such a conquest attached certainly much credit to the commander, and from the circumstances of the times proved of infinite advantage to his interests. But this, like most other French dispatches, had no other authority than the *ipse dixit* of the writer to justify it. Instead of seventeen thousand, there were not quite eight thousand, four thousand of which were killed and wounded in the action, near two thousand were carried off by the boats at the time, or during the siege of the castle, and the remainder capitulated in the fort. Such is the fact, and so has the world been deceived!

On the 19th the supply in the market altogether failed, from the advance of General Menou, whose patroles had fallen in with and killed several Arabs bringing sheep.

On the 21st a column of infantry and cavalry was perceived passing over the ground adjacent to Lake Mareotis into Alexandria; and an Arab chief sent in a letter to Sir Sydney Smith, acquainting him of the arrival of General Menou with a large army, and that it was his intention to surprise and attack the British camp the next morning; but much confidence was not placed in the communication at head quarters, although Sir Sydney was convinced in his own mind of the honesty and truth of the information, and assured his friends of that event taking place.

On

On the night of the 20th the position of the army had been strengthened by a battery not closed in the rear, erected a little in front and to the left of the ruins of Ptolemy's Palace, from whence the space to the sea was open, and no works filled up the broken apertures in the exterior wall of the ruins. In front of the right of the Guards was a redoubt; on their left a large battery, where the signal staff was hoisted, which was afterwards called the citadel; on the left of the line a redoubt, and on the canal of Alexandria two works. On the whole line were two 24 pounders, and 34 field pieces. General Regnier states the position to have been defended by 42 pieces.

On the memorable 21st of March the army as usual was under arms at three o'clock in the morning; all was quiet till half past three o'clock, when the report of a musquet was heard at the extremity of the left. Instantly afterwards a cannon fired, scattered musquetry succeeded, and then two more guns. For a moment attention was directed to that quarter. All were convinced that a general attack was commencing, but it was immediately evident that the firing was too feeble on the left to believe *that* to be the point of the enemy's serious object. Indeed this was the universal sentiment; and General Moore, who as general officer of the night, on the first alarm proceeded to the left, was so impressed with this idea, that he turned back to the right.

For a few minutes all was still; but it was the awful suspense of anxious expectation, not of apprehension. Every eye was painfully extended forwards through the gloomy mist of the atmosphere, and the ears strained to catch the smallest sound. Occasionally the eastern horizon was anxiously regarded; but though the grey of the morning was perceptible, it seemed reluctantly to break. On a sudden loud shouts were heard in front of the right, which fully certified the enemy's intention,

a roar

Position of the Enemy previous to & after the Action
Bed of the Lake Mareotis
passable in many parts both for Cavalry & Artillery
Canal of Alexandria
Genl. Roize
Genl. Regnier
Genl. Friant
Genl. Rampon
Genl. Lanusse
French army advancing in Columns
Gun Boats
& Armed Vessels under
Capt. Maitland
Dromedary Corps
Guards
Royals
Stuarts
Dillons
Derrols
Queens
Corsicans
Cavalry dismounted
Cavy. of Reserve
Well
Artillery Depot
Scale of one Mile.
LAKE OF ABOUKIR
Called by the French
LAKE MAHADIE
Plan
of the Action of the 21st. of March
Fought near
ALEXANDRIA,
by the French under
GENERAL MENOU,
And
the English under
SIR RALPH ABERCROMBIE
Explanation
Dark Colours British position at the moment of Attack.
Light Colours movements of the British during the Action.
Red; British.
Blue: French.
A. Ruins of Nicopolis called by the French the Camp of the Romans.
B. Redoubt taken by the French early in the morning.
...... Track of the French Cavalry.
.... __ Movements of the British from their Encampment.
C. Two Guns abandoned by the Enemy.
D. Redan taken by the Enemy with a six Pr. in it which they could not Carry off.
E. French Column Obliged to lay down their Arms.
I. Bathurst Novr. 1st. 1801 Capt. 7th. W. I. Regt.

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a roar of musquetry immediately succeeded, and the action there became general.

The enemy, covered by the unequal surface of the ground, had advanced unperceived as far as the videttes, and continued to press on with them and the retiring piquets of infantry to the main position with all possible celerity; one column directed itself upon the ruins where the 58th were posted, the front of which was considerably more extensive than the front of the regiment; but some parts of the wall still standing, it admitted of the regiment's dividing itself, but scarcely notwithstanding did the troops fill up the different openings. Colonel Houston, who commanded, faintly perceived the column of the enemy advancing with beat of drums and huzzas; but fearing lest the English piquets might be preceding, he allowed it to approach so close that the glazed hats were clearly distinguished, when he ordered the grenadiers to fire, which was followed by the whole regiment, and repeated with several rounds. These continued and well directed discharges not only checked but made the enemy's column retire quickly into a hollow some distance in their rear, when it shortly afterwards wheeled to the right, and endeavoured to force round the redoubt in front of its left, with another column, directing its march upon the battery. The 28th regiment stationed there opened a heavy fire on that part of the enemy which attempted to storm the redoubt in front; but the main body of the two columns now joined to a third, forced in behind the redoubt, and whilst some remained to attack it thus in the rear, the rest penetrated into the ruins. Colonel Crowdjye, who commanded the left of the 58th, observing their advance through the openings, wheeled back two companies, and after two or three rounds of fire advanced on the enemy with the bayonet. At this instant the 23d regiment appeared to support, having moved for that purpose from its station,

station, and the 42d also advancing on the exterior side of the ruins to cover the opening on the left of the redoubt, so cut off the troops which had entered, that after a severe loss they were obliged to surrender. The 28th regiment had presented, as well as the 58th, the extraordinary spectacle of troops fighting at the same time to the front, flanks, and rear. Although thus surrounded, the 28th regiment remained fixed to the platform of the parapet, and preserving its order continued a contest unexampled before this day. Colonel Chambers had the honour of commanding, Colonel Paget having been wounded at the commencement of the action. The advance of the 42d relieved the 28th for a moment from this unequal attack; but as that regiment approached the right of the redoubt, the first line of the enemy's cavalry, passing by the left of the redoubt, floundering over the tents and in the holes dug in the encampment of the 28th regiment, charged en masse, and overwhelmed the 42d; yet, though broken, this gallant corps was not defeated; individually it resisted, and the conduct of each man exalted still more the high character of the regiment. Colonel Spencer, who with the flank companies of the 40th had taken his station in the intervals of the ruins, was for some seconds afraid to order his men to fire, lest he should destroy the 42d, so intermixed with the enemy. But the cavalry passing on, and directing itself against that interval, he was obliged to command the firing, which stopped the cavalry's advance; yet such a feeble force must instantly have been overpowered, if at this critical moment General Stuart, with the foreign brigade from the second line, had not advanced in the most perfect order, and poured in such a heavy and well directed fire that nothing could withstand it, and the enemy fled or perished. It was in this charge of the cavalry that the gallant Sir Ralph Abercrombie, always anxious to be the most forward in danger, received his mortal

mortal wound. On the first alarm he had mounted his horse, and finding the right was seriously engaged, proceeded thither. When he came near the ruins, he dispatched his aids de camp with some orders to different brigades, and whilst thus alone some dragoons of the French cavalry penetrated to the spot, and he was thrown from his horse. One of them, from the tassel of his sword supposed to be an officer, then rode at him, and attempted to cut him down; but just as the point of the sword was falling, his natural heroism, and the energy of the moment, so invigorated the veteran general, that he seized the sword, and wrested it from the hand; at that instant the officer was bayonetted by a soldier of the 42d. Sir Ralph Abercrombie did not know the moment of his receiving the wound in the thigh, but complained severely of the contusion in his breast, supposed to be given by the hilt of the sword in the scuffle. Sir Sydney Smith was the first officer who came to Sir Ralph, and who by an accident had broke his own sword, which Sir Ralph observing, he instantly presented to him the one he had so gloriously acquired.*

Sir Ralph, as the cavalry was by this time repulsed, walked to the redoubt on the right of the Guards, from which he could command a view of the whole field of battle. The French, although driven out of the camp, by no means gave up the contest on the right. A second charge of cavalry was attempted by their reserve against the foreign brigade, but completely failed. After this their infantry did not keep any longer in a

* This sword Sir Sydney Smith means to place on his monument.

A singular circumstance happened almost immediately afterwards. Major Hall, aid de camp to General Craddock, whilst going with orders had his horse killed. Seeing Sir Sydney, he begged to mount his orderly man's horse. As Sir Sydney was turning round to bid him give it to Major Hall, a cannon ball struck off the dragoon's head. "This," exclaimed Sir Sydney, "is destiny. The horse, Major Hall, is your's."

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body, but acted *en tirailleur*, except that a battalion maintained still a little flèche in front of the redoubt, on each flank of which Republican colours were planted.

The ammunition of the English was by this time totally exhausted, and the regiments of the reserve were obliged to remain without firing a shot, some not having one round left, and for a time there was only one cartouch for the guns in the battery. Whilst such was the state of the contest on the right, the attack on the centre had also continued. As soon as day dawned, a column of grenadiers had advanced, supported by a heavy line of infantry, to the assault of this part of the position. The Guards posted there at first threw out their flankers to oppose them, but these being driven in, when the column approached very near, General Ludlow directed the brigade to fire, which they did with the greatest precision. The French General seeing the echellon formation, had advanced to turn the left flank of the Guards, but the officer commanding there wheeled back instantly some companies, which checked their movement, and the advance of General Coote with his brigade compelled them to retreat. Finding this effort ineffectual, they then dispersed as sharp shooters, and kept up a very destructive fire, at the same time that the French cannon played incessantly. The left of the British was never seriously engaged; it was only exposed to partial musquetry, and a distant cannonade. The French on the right, during the want of ammunition amongst the British, had attempted to approach again close to the redoubt, and some of them also having exhausted their's, absolutely pelted stones from the ditch at the 28th, who returned these unusual, yet not altogether harmless instruments of violence, as a serjeant of the 28th was killed by one breaking through his forehead; but the grenadier company of the 40th moving out, the assailants ran away, the sharp shooters

shooters in front left the hollows they were covered by, and the battalion also evacuated the flèche.

At length General Menou finding that every one of his movements had failed, and that the British lines had suffered no serious impression to justify the hopes of an eventual success, determined on a retreat. His lines retired in very good order, under the heights of their position; but fortunately for them, there was such a want on the part of the English of ammunition, otherwise the slaughter would at least have been double, as the ground they had to pass over presented a glacis for the farthest range of shot. As it was, the cannon on the left did much execution, and also the king's cutters on the right, which had during the whole action most gallantly remained in their station, although exposed to a body of the enemy within half musquet shot, expressly firing at them, and who had the advantage of a considerable elevation. A corps of French cavalry, posted at the bridge on the canal of Alexandria, to protect the right flanks of their lines, and to prevent a movement from the British left, deserves equally to be mentioned for the steadiness with which it maintained its ground, although the shot plunged constantly into the ranks. At about ten o'clock, A. M. the action ceased; but it was not till the defeat of the French was thus absolutely assured that Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had remained in the battery, and where several times he had nearly been killed by cannon shot, could be prevailed upon to quit the field. He had continued walking about, paying no attention to his wound, only occasionally complaining of a pain in his breast from the contusion. Officers who went to him in the course of the action, returned without knowing from his manner or appearance that he had been wounded, and many only ascertained it by seeing the blood trickling down his clothes. At last his spirit, when exertion

was no longer necessary, yielded to nature; he became faint, was placed in a hammock, and borne to the depôt, cheered by the feeling expressions and blessings of the soldiers as he passed: he was then put into a boat, accompanied by his aid de camp and esteemed friend, Sir Thomas Dyer, and carried to Lord Keith's ship.

When the French army had totally withdrawn, the attention of the English was directed to those miserably wounded men who were left on the field of battle; and the spectacle, from the contractedness of the ground of action, was really horrible. Those who have never seen such a sight, must not suppose that the effect of this scene altogether consists in the groans and lamentations of the dying: no, it is the gallant resolution with which these acute and terrible sufferings are borne, the energy of the soul, subduing the violence of bodily pain; the character of the soldier supported in these last moments, which excite the feelings, and annihilate the rage of hostility.

During the action several explosions were heard and seen in different parts of the field. They were now found to have been occasioned by the blowing up of tumbrils, set on fire by the English shells. On the ground were found about 1700 French killed or wounded, 1040 of whom were buried in the course of two days on the field of battle. If the calculation be carried on in the general proportion of wounded to killed, the enemy's loss would appear to have been very considerable indeed, but the number, including the prisoners, at the fairest estimation, amounted to about 4000 men, amongst which were most of their principal officers, killed or wounded. General Roiz lay dead in rear of the redout on the right: in his pockets were found the order for the attack, and a letter from General Menou of an interesting nature. Two pieces of cannon were abandoned, one of them, an Austrian eight pounder, was lying within four yards of

the redoubt, the four beautiful horses killed which drew it, and several artillery men. It seems that a discharge of grape from the 24th had effected this, when the French during the darkness had brought the gun up by accident in front of the battery. Four hundred horses were also lying on the field, most of them on the left of the ruins. In this battle the French standard was taken. Serjeant Sinclair, of the 42d regiment, and a private of the Minorca, whose name unfortunately cannot now be acquired, claimed equally the trophy, and it appears that each merited the honour; Serjeant Sinclair first took it, but being ordered forwards by an officer, he gave it to a private, who was killed. When the Minorca advanced, the French had recovered the colours; but the private wrested them from the man who had possession, and then bayoneted him. General Regnier states, that the battalion to which these colours belonged was composed chiefly of Copts; but how Copts came to carry a standard, on which *le Passage de la Serivia, le Passage du Tagliamento, le Passage de l'Isonzo, la Prise de Graz, le Pont de Lodi*, are inscribed, General Regnier can only explain.

The loss of the English was six officers and 233 men ditto; wounded, 60 officers, 1190 men; three officers, 29 men missing. The English tents were torn to pieces by the shot, and thousands of brass cannon balls were glistening in the sand. Several servants had been killed in the tents, and numerous miraculous escapes of the sick lying in them are to be told.

Where the conduct of all was so distinguished, it is difficult to particularise merit; but it would manifest ignorance or prejudice not to speak of General Moore with those sentiments of admiration which the whole army felt and expressed. His exertions, personal courage, and ability contributed much to the success of the day, and enhance that character which his former brilliant services entitled him to. Wounded early

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in the action through the leg, he refused to quit the field, and continued in an activity almost beyond belief, when the nature of such a wound is considered.* Brigadier General Oakes followed so meritorious an example, and also severely wounded early in the morning, still remained. To General Stuart's movement the army was much indebted, as it certainly decided the action. Colonel Spencer's conduct was consistent with that which gained him in Holland a fame never to be obliterated or outrivalled. General Ludlow's coolness and disposition preserved the centre, until General Coote's movement; in short, whereever opportunity presented itself, every thing was done which gallantry, zeal, and ability could perform. Sir Sydney Smith, wounded early, was always in the hottest fire; and most active in rendering every assistance. The captains of the navy on shore, commanding the artillery in the great battery, exerted themselves to the utmost; and the sailors, who could be spared, were of the greatest service in carrying up the ammunition wherever wanted. Some Turks were also employed on this service, but unacquainted with cannon shot, they could never advance above ten paces at a time without dropping it to crouch from the balls. This was not a deficiency of courage in them, but of habit and discipline.

The conduct of the troops cannot but excite wonder in military men, of whatever nation they may be. Surrounded, partly broken, without ammunition, still to continue the contest, and remain conquerors, is an extraordinary evidence of intrepidity, discipline, and inherent conduct. The British service may not only pride itself on that day for the battle gained, but as

* General Moore in Holland was wounded three times before he left the field. Every where he has gained the admiration of the army, exalted the honour of his country, and given pledges of his being one day ranked amongst the most illustrious officers of the age.

it serves for the ground-work of future glory, and if its details are properly impressed, must diffuse universally instruction and confidence in danger.

The battle of the 21st admits, however, of more observations, which should not be deemed arrogant, as information, not personality, is the object. The chief error of General Menou consisted in the precipitation with which he decided on the attack. His eagerness to be the aggressor, checked those councils which a more deliberate consideration must have produced. If he was induced from the impression that to wait to be attacked was dishonourable to the French name, such vanity was deservedly fatal. If he despised his enemy, the instance must be added to the long catalogue of misfortunes which this weakness has occasioned. Whatever were his motives, from whatever impulse he acted, as far as general reasons extend, the attack was injudicious; the advantage in one case was dubious, in the other positive. It was obvious that the mere occupation of the barren isthmus of Aboukir could not be the ultimate object of the British general; that his offensive operations could not be long retarded; that whenever he advanced against Alexandria, he not only had to attack a superior army, but one posted on heights so defended, as to be almost impregnable; that this attempt must, however, be made, or the enterprize in this point abandoned, and thus the success of the 8th and 13th rendered nugatory, beside the probability of opportunity presenting itself to attack favourably during the re-embarkation. The wish of France was to preserve Egypt, not fight for victories, bought at an expence in the event as ruinous as defeat. But in quitting his position, General Menou resigned all the advantages he possessed, and led his army to attack with every disadvantage, acting as if the simple conquest of such an English force was not sufficiently glorious. Had he waited forty-

forty-eight hours, Sir Ralph Abercrombie intended an assault by night, which perhaps would have been the most precarious ever hazarded; but the case was desperate, the die irrecoverably cast; Sir Ralph never was sanguine enough to allow a hope that an attack might be made on him, and therefore could not credit such a report; but had he directed the operations of the enemy to ensure his conquest, this would have been the movement.

General Menou's orders for the disposition of his army were excellent, and displayed great abilities, which he undoubtedly possesses, but their application to the British position was not exactly correct.

The diversion on the left was too feeble, and not begun early enough to attract the attention of the army to that point. Colonel Cavalier, with his dromedary corps,* did all which could be done, and more than could be expected, as he completely carried the first battery with one piece of cannon, killing or taking every man which defended it; but he had not sufficient force to persevere, or the alarm would have been very great, as the canal once forced, the rear of the left was totally exposed; and certainly, from the ground in front, so favourable for the enemy's superior force in cavalry, the left was the weakest part of the position.

The advance of General Lannusse's column was too quick after the firing on the left was heard, if that diversion had been more powerful, which indisputably it should have been. It certainly was not General Menou's fault that the general attack did

* It must not be supposed that this corps acts as cavalry. The dromedaries are only used for the speed of conveyance, and the men dismount when arrived at the scene of action. The idea did not originate with the French, but was the custom of the Mamelukes and all Africa. The French did not even improve the saddles, which are the most inconvenient and uncomfortable for an European tight dress imaginable.

not

not begin sooner. His order shews that such was his intention, but accidents almost always happen to retard.

When the charge of cavalry was made, it should have been supported by a heavy body of infantry; and it was a fatal mistake in whoever commanded the movement of the cavalry (it is said General Roiz three times refused, from a knowledge of the danger, to charge) to direct them so immediately on the redoubt, as even if the tents had not checked and broken their charge, the sharp wheel which they had to make round it must have enfeebled its impetuosity. If the cavalry, or any part of it, had advanced in the flat between the right and centre, and pressed on through the second line, the confusion would have been almost irretrievable, for the infantry would have sufficiently occupied the first line. It is true, that the cavalry of reserve were placed in this flat, but their numbers, they knew, could not have opposed, with every allowance for gallantry, a probable resistance: it is to be considered also, that the French were acquainted with every part of the ground, and from their commanding heights could distinctly view every work which had been made by the English, and the whole distribution of their force; but these are contingencies from which few battles are exempt. The great fault was in the attack itself, not in the manner of conducting it.

General Regnier, whose history is from beginning to end a tissue of untruths, attempts to insinuate "that General Hutchinson improperly remained a tranquil spectator of the action, with 6000 men opposed to 800;" but had General Hutchinson made a movement with the left wing, he would have broken the position, and merited every disaster. His duty was to remain, in such an action, where the superiority of cavalry and artillery was so prodigiously in favour of the enemy, on the defensive; and nothing could have justified the quitting

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of his lines, but a positive order from the Commander in Chief for a combined general movement. How many battles have been lost by an indiscretion, the non-existence only of which in this instance General Regnier has a right to deprecate.

His assertion is just, that the battle was fought by the right of the English army only, and he thus entangles himself in bestowing praise, where he meant to traduce. The French army, according to his account, was nine thousand seven hundred men strong, including fifteen hundred cavalry, with forty-six pieces of cannon. The British force, reduced by their losses in the actions of the 8th and 13th, by the men taken away for the care of the wounded, by the absence of the 92d regiment, the marines, and 26th dismounted dragoons, at Aboukir, did not yield an effective strength of ten thousand men, including three hundred cavalry. The half of that number resisted the concentrated attack of the French army, exclusive of 800 men on its right, and by their own immediate valour and exertions gained the battle. But General Regnier will not find an universal sentiment of approbation as to the conduct of the French right on that day in his own army. The most distinguished officers have coincided with what was apparent to the English, that the right did not support at any moment (and there were some advantageous opportunities) the exertions of the left, or cover its discomfitures. But perhaps the Gazette account, which states that the French right was always kept refused, has goaded General Regnier, who commanded it, and who thus without equal foundation retorts. General Menou directed the right to be thrown back only until the left and centre were warmly engaged; and even if his orders were not so explicit, General Regnier must know, that in an attacking army no positive arrangement can be made, and that a general must and should act frequently on his own responsibility, from momen-

momentary circumstances. It is in vain he attempts to detract from the honour of this victory, nor will his misrepresentation of the 42d regiment, crouching *ventre à terre* under the cavalry, find credit any where, since the bravery of the Scottish regiment has this war been too frequently witnessed. With more implicit faith will it, however, be believed, that many of the French troops were in a state of intoxication, a habit which has been too frequent this war, and which originates in the issue of spirits always before a pre-arranged attack. But no excuse can be formed for the officers, one of whom, and of rank, was so tipsy when taken, as to be the object of general derision. It must, however, be stated, that the conduct of the French soldiers, whatever might be the incitement, was extremely gallant, and amongst the wounded, several traits of heroism were displayed.

But notwithstanding the importance of this victory, it by no means decided the fate of Egypt. Not an inch of territory was acquired; the French still possessed their position, and had an army considerably more numerous than the British in the country; indeed, calculating the mutual losses by an inverse ratio, their strength had increased by the diminution of the previous inferior number of their enemy; yet one immediate benefit resulting, independent of the confidence it inspired in the troops, was the impression made on the inhabitants and Bedouin Arabs, thousands of whom had witnessed the battle, and such a battle as their fathers never recorded to them. The market was immediately supplied with every article, and a direct communication established with the interior. Still the army was, however, obliged to live on salt pork, as the troops did not choose, although an allowance was offered to them for their rations, to trust to the supply of fresh meat, and the commissary dare not undertake it. Its duties were very severe. By

 night

night the out-posts were strong, and the whole laid with their accoutrements on, always turning out at three o'clock in the morning. The day was occupied in bringing the provisions from the depôt, dragging guns, ammunition, wood, &c. and all this was necessarily done by men's labour. The camp was regularly fortifying, and batteries and lines raising wherever they could add to its strength. In digging, many curious antiquities were found, and particularly cisterns, baths, &c. one of which was so perfect as to have the pipe which conducted the water remaining, and the water mark of its dripping perfectly discernible.

On the evening of the 23d of March Sir Sydney Smith went with a flag of truce to the out-posts, and demanded to be admitted to the commandant of Alexandria. Whilst the officer sent an express to his head quarters, a conversation commenced between him and the soldiers respecting their situation, and the affair of the 21st; from which it appeared that they by no means fought for Egypt, because they wished to continue in the country; indeed they pitied the English, who had now so fair a prospect of possessing it. The affair of the 21st they regretted as most fatal, and particularly to a number of principal officers; amongst those since dead of their wounds, they mentioned Generals Lannusse and Bodet: they further stated, that General Menou had his horse shot under him, and that most of the officers of his staff had been wounded; that the advice-boat which had left Alexandria on the night of the 21st, was supposed to have sailed with dispatches to demand instructions from Bonaparte.

The answer having returned, that no person could be allowed to pass the out-posts, Sir Sydney Smith sent in his letter as from Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Lord Keith, proposing an evacuation of Egypt to the French, by which they might return

to

to France, without being considered prisoners of war, but that their shipping, artillery, &c. should be surrendered to the English. The letter was addressed purposely to the Commander of Alexandria. The next morning General Friant returned a note, in which he expressed great surprise that such an offer, so disrespectful to the army of the east and himself, should be made, since circumstances by no means warranted the proposal, and that the French were determined to defend Egypt to the last.

During the night a very heavy gale of wind had driven one of the cutters on shore near the palace, but all the crew were saved. The weather by day was very violent, blowing right on shore, and occasionally the storm lasted forty or sixty hours unremittingly, when the fleet off Alexandria was obliged to stand out to sea, but reappeared the first possible moment, to the great pleasure of the army, as on the blockade every thing depended.

March the 25th, the Captain Pacha, with six thousand men, arrived in the bay of Aboukir, and the next day landed and encamped at a little distance from the beach. Near them were lying the remains of four thousand of their countrymen, who had perished two years before. The corruption of that field of battle was still intolerable; almost wherever a horse trod, the impression of the hoof laid bare some corpse with the clothes still on.

On the 23d Lord Keith wishing to occupy the caravansary, of which the French had made a post, as commanding the entrance into Lake Edko, Captain Beavor of the navy was detached with some sailors and marines for that purpose. The French fired a few shots as the boats approached, and then ran away, throwing the two guns off the battlements. Its occupation was of great importance, particularly to the premeditated movements, and therefore the next day three hundred

dred Turks, under Mustapha Aga, who came with the Capitain Bey, were marched to Aboukir, and there embarked for the caravansary; but it was nearly dark before they could pass the boghaz at the entrance of Lake Edko. When they were landed, a party was ordered in advance of the caravansary, where they continued about an hour, and then returned, nor could any efforts prevail on them to quit the fort during the night. Two marines had deserted in the course of the day, which caused some alarm, lest the account they might give of the smallness of the force should induce the French to attack the garrison. These marines were foreigners, and it is said had never landed for six years before, being always suspected men.

The next morning Captain Marley, of the staff corps, whose instructions were to reconnoitre Lake Edko, proceeded with Lieutenant Wright of the navy in the Tigre barge, attended by one gun-boat. From the course of the channel they were obliged to keep near the shore, and when at a little distance from the caravansary, observed a party of French cavalry watching them, and who moved in a parallel direction until they reached the village of Edko, opposite which the boats lay a short time. The Sheik and the principal persons of this little place immediately waded to them, expressing the greatest joy at seeing the English, and the utmost abhorrence of the French. The inhabitants of this village, at the first landing of the French, had committed some act of hostility against the detachment sent to occupy Rosetta. Bonaparte in his dispatches to the directory mentions this circumstance, and adds, that having given orders for the reduction of this town, it was assaulted accordingly; he then proceeds to applaud the gallantry of the troops who stormed, in as pompous a manner as if another Ismael had been taken; whereas this village had not even the mud wall which surrounds all the others in Egypt. As a proof

of

of the resistance, 150 men, women, and children were put to the sword, and not a Frenchman was hurt; yet, no doubt, the banner of Edko is suspended in the temple of Mars at Paris. These poor people were eager to give every information in their power, and reported the exact amount of the strength of the enemy at Rosetta. The cavalry which had followed the boats they said was a patrole, who went daily from Rosetta to the caravansary since the appearance of the British fleet. Some of the inhabitants went to the southern point of the lake with Captain Marley, who completed his reconnoitring, and on his return to Edko, the inhabitants brought sheep, eggs, fish, and fowls as a present; but Lieutenant Wright insisted on paying liberally, having Sir Sydney's directions for that purpose.

On the 29th Sir Sydney Smith, accompanied by Major Montresor and Isaac Bey, the friend and interpreter of the Captain Pacha, a character well known from his long residence in France, Russia, England, &c. and a man of superior talents, went with a flag of truce to the out-posts, as on the part of the Captain Pacha, Lord Keith, and Sir Ralph Abercrombie; being refused admittance into the town, they were at last obliged to send in their dispatch; to which no answer was ever received.

It was on the morning of this day that the death of Sir Ralph Abercrombie was known; he had borne painful operations with the greatest firmness, but the ball could not be extracted. At length a mortification ensued, and he died in the evening of the 20th, having always expressed the greatest solicitude for the army, and irritating his mind from the first moment with the anxiety to resume his command. His loss was a severe one; his death universally mourned; he was beloved by the troops for his kindness and attention to their welfare, and his courage was their pride and example. His age, combined with his services, exertions, and manners, rendered him

him an object of enthusiastic admiration; but every eulogium is unworthy of his fame, except conveyed in the pathetic and elegant sentiments of his friend and successor.

"Were it permitted for a soldier to regret any one who has fallen in the service of his country, I might be excused for lamenting him more than any other person; but it is some consolation to those who tenderly loved him, that as his life was honourable, so was his death glorious. His memory will be recorded in the annals of his country, will be sacred to every British soldier, and embalmed in the recollection of a grateful posterity."

At night a French deserter came in from the hussars, and an artillery man who had advanced too forward was taken. The French and English videttes communicated together; but to prevent this, General Menou directed that with each vidette should be placed a Mameluke, or rather Syrian horseman, in French pay. On the night of the 30th there was an alarm of an attack, which kept a considerable part of the army under arms; but the fact was, that the French also apprehending one, made that movement which caused the uneasiness. On the 31st eleven Arab Chiefs came to Sir Sydney Smith; they were all very intelligent men, with uncommonly fine physiognomies, and well clothed; but the people who accompanied them were ill-looking fellows, had only a cap on their heads, a loose pair of linen pantaloons, and a coarse blanket cloth thrown round them, which also formed a hood. It was impossible to regard these Chiefs without thinking of the Wise Men of the East, and to see their simplicity of manners, without remembering the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; for no civilizing innovation has been introduced amongst the tribes since their time; although it is not by this meant to insinuate that there has not been a corruption of morality, as these people are now common robbers.

bers. At night a deserter came over, and reported that a hussar had been shot the evening before, having been caught in the attempt to desert.

Whilst the army remained in this state of inactivity, the mind of General Hutchinson, on whom the command devolved, was most anxiously agitated. He found himself succeeding to a situation unexpectedly, under circumstances the most unfavourable. The previous victories must have inspired hopes in England and Europe, nay almost positive confidence of the success of the expedition, if common prudence directed the operations; and Egypt after the battle of the 21st he was aware would be considered as conquered. His trophies could probably therefore be few, whilst his responsibility was great: he saw, however, that the campaign was but commenced, assuredly with favourable auspices, but no decisive superiority. A greater army than his own was still to combat, strong places to be taken, climate to be endured, supplies to be obtained from the interior, communication to be established with the Vizir and the Indian army; and, independent of these formidable difficulties, the plague and other diseases menaced to reduce his force. Lord Keith also assured him, that after October he could no longer remain on the coast with the shipping, on account of the weather and state of the vessels.

To abandon the enterprize was infamy; to complete it with glory a precarious prospect; an attack on Alexandria was too desperate an enterprize to be undertaken, but to remain inert was impossible; the fleet wanted water, the troops fresh provisions; he therefore determined to make an effort, which, if successful, might procure the possession of Rosetta, and command of the Nile. After the losses of the British it was impossible to detach away any considerable force, but the 58th regiment and the 40th flank companies, with a detachment of Hompesch's hussars, consisting of thirty men and eight

pieces

pieces of cannon were spared for this service. With this corps four thousand Turks, who had arrived with the Captain Pacha, and now put under the orders of the Caia Bey, were destined to act. Colonel Spencer commanded the whole. April the 2d the corps marched for Aboukir, where it was to cross the ferry, and join the Turks.

On the same day the Captain Pacha, accompanied by Lord Keith, came to visit the grand camp, and the line was turned out to receive him. His appearance was striking, his dark eye was expressive of that energy and character for which he is so distinguished, and although he seemed to have bad health, he did not look more than 35 years of age: his face was handsome, and his fine black beard beautiful; his manners were remarkably elegant, and at the same time dignified. At the moment he was passing, a French Mameluke deserted, who was brought to him; he received the trembling apostate with a graciousness which made a pleasing impression on all the beholders; then gave him, in consequence of his contrition, and the intelligence he communicated, a handful of sequins. The Mameluke, unable to restrain the emotion of gratitude, and breaking through the regulations of their decorum, snatched at his hand to kiss it; but the Captain Pacha withdrew it from his grasp with a grace and smile of kindness, which Lord Chesterfield would have considered as the model of amiableness. When he came to the market, the Arabs shouted, and he sent them handfuls of gold.

The appearance of the army delighted him, and the scene was more interesting from being reviewed in the field of battle. As the Commander in Chief's tent was not large enough for his reception, the Captain Pacha had sent two very fine Turkish ones to the general as a present. Their tents are made of coloured cotton, richly worked in the interior, enormously large, always

always cool, and perfectly adapted to a country where there is little rain. After being refreshed there some time, he returned to his own camp.

April the 3d a violent gale of wind commenced, which lasted three days. The fleet was obliged to leave the coast, and several boats were lost in the bay; the tents and every thing were covered and filled with sand, although the wind blew northwest.

On the 5th the news arrived of the L'Africaine having been taken, which was soon communicated to the French.

On the 6th, certain intelligence having been obtained that the French had detached to Rosetta, the 2d regiment or Queen's were ordered to the support of Colonel Spencer. On the 7th, Major Wilson was sent in with a flag of truce to the general commanding the out-posts, to declare, that unless the French videttes were withdrawn into the line from which they had advanced, General Hutchinson would be obliged to begin a species of warfare which was to be deprecated, when it could be avoided, as an useless loss of lives. At the same time orders were issued for the cavalry of the reserve to hold itself in readiness to sweep off the enemy's line of posts. But the answer was returned, that as the videttes had actually advanced, they should be withdrawn into the original line, at the same time it was to be understood that their retreat was not the effect of the menace. April the 8th, three men having deserted of Hompesch's hussars, the corps was withdrawn from the out-posts, which caused an universal regret, as their intelligence and conduct had been always the admiration of every officer in the army. Several patroles had been sent to Beda; and about this time it being understood that the French were passing a convoy, a strong detachment of infantry and cavalry marched along the canal, and advanced to a village beyond and to the right of Beda, but

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where it was then ascertained that the convoy had passed during the night.

April the 10th, accounts came with the intelligence of the capture of Rosetta. Colonel Spencer having passed his army across the two ferries, had proceeded on the 7th to Edko, keeping his right upon the lake, and only detaching patroles along the beach of the sea, by which he also avoided the melancholy sight of the number of dead bodies thrown overboard from the hospital ships, and which the sea had unhappily yielded up again. He arrived at Edko without opposition. The Turks, however, had given him much uneasiness, as they kept by way of amusement firing constantly in the air with ball. On the morning of the 8th, the army arrived before Rosetta, after a painful march across the Desert, where frequently in the hollows of the ground the air was so hot as to excite the sensation of the vertigo, and where from the mirage it seemed a lake of water, reflecting even the shade of the date trees; an extraordinary deception which no reasoning or strength of sight could remove. The French, to the number of 800 men, were drawn up in front of Aboumandour, a very high sand hill above the Nile, to the southward of Rosetta, on which was an old tower; but as Colonel Spencer approached, the greater part passed across the Nile in dgerms, ready for the purpose, and the remainder retreated towards El Hamed: that body which had crossed the river drew up on the bank, and remained so posted until two guns were brought up, and fired at them, which killed and wounded several men. Colonel Spencer then detached the Queen's and five hundred Arnauts to occupy Rosetta, and blockade Fort St. Julien, whilst he proceeded with the main body to El Hamed.

The position of El Hamed was remarkably strong, the right being on the lake, the left on the Nile, and the highest banks of a canal in Egypt running along the front; but it must be understood

understood that these canals are not like those of Europe, as they have no water in them, except at high Nile, the level of the country forming their bed, and the banks being raised above it. They may properly be called canals of irrigation.*

When the army first arrived on the banks of the Nile, a dgerm was seen sailing up it from Rosetta, in which was the commandant. A great number of shots were fired at him, but he persevered, and escaped. The same evening several Turkish gun-boats forced the Boghaz, obliging the French dgerms, which defended the passage, to sail away, and anchor under the walls of St. Julien.

The easy conquest of Rosetta was an object of astonishment: it had been considered so important an acquisition, that its capture was deemed very precarious; indeed, Colonel Spencer's instructions were to abandon the enterprize, if he met with serious resistance. The French, had they suspected this movement, might have passed a corps round Lake Maadie, and leaving a post at Beda, advanced on the isthmus between that lake and Lake Edko, thus intercepting his retreat, whilst an attack in front would have placed him in a desperate situation; and had there been an enterprising partizan employed, he might have made much advantage afterwards of that movement, and considerably distressed the English, by destroying the ferry-bridge, &c. &c. and this occasion offered until the 21st of May, when Beda was occupied by 450 men of the Coldstream, and the 3d Guards, 20 dragoons, with 4 pieces of cannon; which detachment was commanded by Colonel Turner.

April the 11th, towards evening, the camp was thrown into some alarm by the firing of heavy guns, which proved to be a salute to the Imperial, Russian, and Spanish colours, hoisted in the centre of the French position, as a proof of France being

* The beds of the canals are frequently of a higher elevation than the level of the country, that when cut, all the water may be let out.

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at peace with those nations, and a lure to the foreigners in the British army. The same day, as a French serjeant came to a vidette, with the view of circulating a paper to seduce the troops, many of which had been distributed, he fired at, and wounded him.

April the 13th was a memorable day for Egypt. The military position, commercial relations, and climate of Alexandria, have from thence to date their new æra. The position which the army occupied, required so large a force, that it was impossible to defend the one, and prosecute the new expedition. In General Roiz's pocket had been found a letter of General Menou's, anxiously expressing a fear that the English had cut the canal of Alexandria,* and thus let the waters of the sea into Lake Mariotis. From that moment it had become the favourite object of the army, as, by securing the left and part of its front, the duty would be diminished, the French nearly cut off from the interior, and a new scene of operations opened. But there were very serious objections to the measure. First, the mischief it might do was incalculable. The Arabs could give no information where such a sea would be checked: the ruin of Alexandria was probably a consequence, and whilst it strengthened the British left, it secured the south front of the French position, except from a new landing; but the urgency of the present service at last superseded general philanthropy and more remote considerations. General Hutchinson reluctantly consented, whilst the army was in raptures; never did a working party labour with more zeal; every man would have volunteered with cheerfulness to assist. Four cuts were made, of six yards in breadth, and about ten from each other, a little in advance of the farthest redoubt, but only two could be

* The canal commences at Rahmanich, and passes over fifteen or sixteen leagues of country; the bed of it is higher than the level of Egypt, but the land which lay between it and Lake Mariotis, was considerably lower than the level of Lake Maadie.

opened

opened the first night. At seven o'clock in the evening the last fascine was removed, and joy was universal. The water rushed in with a fall of six feet, and the pride and peculiar care of Egypt, the consolidation of ages, was in a few hours destroyed by the devastating hand of man. Two more cuts were finished the next day, and three more marked out; but the force of the water was so great, aided by the removal of a few banking stones worked out by the foot of an officer (who justly thought that these partial measures would not complete the inundation for months) as soon to break one into the other; and now an immense body of water rushed in, which continued entering for a month with considerable force; it then found nearly its level, but from the sand absorbing the water, there was always the fall of nine or twelve inches at the entrance. The first boat which floated on this sea was one belonging to Lord Cavan, whose efforts had contributed so much to its formation. On the 13th, in consequence of this inundation, the 18th, 90th, 79th, and detachment of 11th light dragoons, marched to support Colonel Spencer; on the 17th instant, the 30th and 89th followed; on the 18th Generals Craddock and Doyle were appointed to commands in the division of the army at Rosetta.

Colonel Spencer had continued in his position at El Hamed without any movement, except sending patroles forward as far as Dèroute to reconnoitre the enemy's position at El Aft; and in the Delta, Sir Sydney, with some dragoons, and Captain Marley, advanced to Scindioun, from whence they could distinctly view the enemy's position.

It was on one of these patroles the erroneous statement of General Menou was ascertained respecting the canal of Birimbal, which he described toBonaparte as being now, during the whole year, navigable from Lake Bourlos to the Nile, and descanted on the advantages to be derived from this great work; whereas

whereas there has not been a single improvement made by the French: except at high Nile, it is dry as all the other canals are, and four miles from Lake Bourlos it terminates, then running under an arch-way like a drain. But Bonaparte himself began these tales of wonder, and General Menou copied the story of Birimbal from his romance of the canal of Alexandria.

Sir Sydney, with an armed flotilla, proceeded also several times up the Nile nearly as far as El Aft, cavalry patroles protecting his flanks. It was discovered in these reconnoitrings that the French had sunk dgerms across the exterior passage of the Nile, formed by an island on the right of their position, and that their batteries completely commanded the inner channel, it not being more than sixty yards across, which preparations seemed to indicate resistance.

The difficulty of bringing up the heavy artillery from the depôt, which was necessarily formed on the beach of the sea, three miles distant, delayed the operations against the castle of St. Julien* until the 16th, when the two batteries which had been erected in the wood of date trees, within three hundred yards of the work, first opened their fire against the south-west angle; at the same time the Turkish gun-boats, which had passed over the Boccage, and anchored within cannon shot of the English batteries, commenced a brisk cannonade; and the Captain Pacha, having erected a battery with an 18 pounder in the Delta, against the north-east front, directed and fired it always himself.

Anxious to give an example of his courage and zeal, he night and day remained by this battery, animating by his

* When Lord Dalhousie invested it, the Turks found in the wood near it two Frenchmen, who had inadvertently straggled out of the fort, and whose heads, after severely mangling them whilst living, they cut off, and paraded through the streets of Rosetta.

presence

presence the crews of the Turkish vessels, who kept up the cannonade with the greatest intrepidity, conforming themselves to the orders of Captain Stevenson and Captain Corry of the navy.

The castle of St. Julien was defended by fifteen pieces of cannon, and four armed dgerms were anchored under the walls. One of these on the first day was set on fire, and drifted to the eastern bank: instantly Captain Corry in his boat, notwithstanding a heavy discharge of grape, forced by the castle, with the view of saving from the Arabs any men which might have been on board. Entering the dgerm, he found four Arabs with their knives drawn, anxiously searching for some concealed victim! He had scarce quitted her again, towing off also these people, before she blew up. When Captain Corry presented the pennant he had taken from her to the Captain Pacha, his highness gave the crew forty sequins, and expressed the strongest admiration of their conduct.

The English batteries fired but slowly from the want of ammunition, and made no impression the first day on the fort, since they were obliged by shot to open an avenue through the trees; the embrasures were also not correctly formed, and therefore during the night they were altered. As the object was so small, and the vessels and English batteries were within each other's shot, and in the line of fire, it would have been impossible, at any rate, to continue the bombardment during the night; but several gun-boats took that opportunity to pass the castle.

On the morning of the 17th the cannonade began again. The Captain Pacha resuming his station, fired with the greatest correctness and velocity. The French had, from the retinue about the spot, discovered that some distinguished person was stationed there, and suspecting him to be the Captain Pacha, turned against this work a 24 pounder and a mortar; but he answered shot for shot with the same undauntedness.

On

On the 18th, the wall of the salient angle exposed to the battery began to fall, and open the enemy's guns; but they still worked them, although the Turks, creeping within fifty yards of the works, covering themselves by the felled date trees which formed the glacis, maintained a constant fire of musquetry. Another French gun-boat had been sunk, and now one was set on fire by a shell from the Turks, which blew up with a considerable explosion, sinking with her falling yards the fourth and last. In the evening Sir Sydney Smith, who had been actively employed in fitting out four captured dgerms at Rosetta, sent them to attack the castle at the south-east front; after firing several rounds, the wood-work of the carronades broke from the recoil, and they were obliged to retire. Towards night a mortar battery, which had been erected considerably to the right, within three hundred yards of the Nile, and nine hundred of the castle, under the direction of Captains Lemoine and Duncan, fired some shells with extraordinary accuracy; one of them pitched on the centre of the roof, and tore away the flag staff and colours, which the French never dared to erect again.

On the morning of the 19th, at eight o'clock, a white flag was cautiously elevated above the parapet of the castle, when all firing from the English ceased, though not so immediately on the part of the Turkish gun-boats and Captain Pacha, who did not see it for some time. An officer then came out with a letter from the commandant, who requested six hours armistice, in order to settle the terms of the capitulation. Lord Dalhousie returned for answer, that the garrison must surrender prisoners of war at discretion, but that he would give them private property, and six hours to pack up their effects; which was agreed to; and fortunate was their surrender; as in a few hours the Turks, eager for the assault, would have stormed the place. The defence of the garrison had been very good, and did the commandant much credit.

An

An event now took place, which nearly destroyed the harmony and co-operation subsisting between the English and the Captain Pacha. The capitulation had been granted without consulting him, and he felt indignant at a treatment which he imagined might proceed from wilful neglect. Sir Sydney Smith, who, as soon as he was informed that the terms were settled without the Captain Pacha's being previously acquainted with them, foresaw what would happen, went in person to remedy the mischief; but could only induce him by his representations to sign, not accept the flag of the fort, or view the transaction in its real light: he complained that a former flag of truce had come out of the fort, with the nature of which he had been left unacquainted; but was pacified as to this, when he was told that the communication had only related to the restoration of an Arab child, which had been driven in a boat under the castle walls; and on Lord Dalhousie going himself, and representing that no neglect was intended, the memory of the transaction was obliterated, and this meritorious officer was always afterwards a great favourite.* Notwithstanding the good sense of the Captain Pacha, he was jealous of these attentions, being then unacquainted with the character and frank integrity of his new allies.

At three o'clock the garrison marched out, and laid down their arms on the glacis. The old respectable commandant, who had been thirty years in the service, was visibly affected when he ordered his people to ground their arms, and covered his face with his hands.

The number of men taken was 268, of which 160 were well clothed and able soldiers, having recently come from France;

* Lord Dalhousie had been appointed commandant of the siege, with full powers, by Colonel Spencer. The Captain Pacha never announced his intention of being present, nor could it be supposed that he intended to take the command.

the remainder were invalids, but all capable of service in a garrison. About forty men had been killed and wounded during the siege. A Turk who had been taken was found in the fort; and several black ladies,* with a pretty French woman, marched out. A comely face, and a white straw hat, with a wreath of flowers, was an agreeable sight, where only she monsters had been before seen. It was now found, that previous to the siege on the east side was an almost practicable breach, made by the former pressure of the Nile against the wall, but which the Captain Pacha's fire had considerably enlarged. Amongst the guns were several of the Cormorant's carronades, and a beautiful French 24 pounder.

The surrender of this castle was an event of moment, since the fort secured the command of the Nile, and removed much uneasiness respecting an attack to relieve it. Why such a post, when abandoned to its fate, had so considerable a garrison left, is a question not to be resolved but by the enemy. General Regnier observes, that the English asked, on seeing only maimed, "where the garrison was?" but either this is a Gallicism, or the general has been grossly misinformed.

The facility with which Rosetta and St. Julien had been taken, inspired hope, and General Hutchinson determined to press on his operations against the interior. On the 23d therefore he sent the Quarter Master General and his Staff, and on the 26th himself arrived at Rosetta, having on his way paid a visit to

* An officer of the artillery asking how much a black woman cost, mentioned the word Espagnol (signifying Spanish dollars), which reminding the unfortunate female of that term so often made use of at her sale, she suspected a second barter, and giving a dreadful yell, ran and hid herself, but her pleasure was as great to find that her master did not mean to dispose of her. At the Alexandria camp, however, five sailors clubbed and bought a woman, brought by the Arabs to market, for seven dollars; she cried much during the auction, but when her lot was decided, quietly submitted to be led by a cord to the lake, where she was stripped naked, scrubbed well, then embarked in a boat, and carried off to their ship.

the

the Captain Pacha in Aboukir Bay, who had returned on board of his ship.

General Coote was left in the command of the army before Alexandria, a command which required extraordinary vigilance, much judgment, and arrangement, without the pleasure of active service, or the brilliancy of a successful warfare. His camp was now very bare of troops, and his lines too extensive for the force; yet he was to be more weakened, and still expected to maintain himself. Such was the necessity.

The officers of the army who went to Rosetta, expected to find Savary's glowing description of its beauties realized, as they had found some justice in his remarks on that Desert, which separates Aboukir and Alexandria. Their mortification was extreme, to discover that the boasted delights of this city only consisted in comparison. The sight of verdure after that barren waste is a gratifying novelty, which pleases and fascinates the eye, in proportion to the previous suffering of the traveller, relieving his despondency, and charming the senses. For two or three miles immediately on the bank of the Nile, towards St. Julien, is certainly a luxuriant vegetation, but beyond that, and over in the Delta, the scenery is bleak. To the right is Desert.

Rosetta is built of a dingy red brick; a great part of the town is in ruins, many of the houses having been pulled down by the French for fuel; the streets are not more than two yards wide, and full of wretches, which the pride of civilized man revolts at to acknowledge human. The quantity of blind is prodigious, nearly every fifth inhabitant has lost, or has some humour in his eyes; the erisypelas, the dropsy, the leprosy, the elephantiasis, all kinds of extraordinary contortions, and lusus naturæ, constantly offend the sight.

Filth, musquitos of the most dreadful sort, vermin of every kind, women so ugly, that, fortunately for Europeans, their

faces

faces are concealed by a black cloth veil,* in which two eye holes are cut, stench intolerable, houses almost uninhabitable, form the charms of Rosetta and Savary's garden of Eden. The quay is alone a handsome object, and this certainly might be made noble. On it General D'Estaign had fitted up a house in the Italian style, in which were the only clean apartments in the city, excepting a house belonging to Mrs. D'Arcy.

The Nile, the celebrated Nile, afforded, uncombined with its bounties and wonderful properties, no pleasure to the sight; the muddy stream, rotten banks, putrifying with the fatness of the slime, left from the waters; its narrow breadth, not being more than a hundred yards across, impressed with no idea of majesty; but a reflection on the miraculous qualities of this river, an anticicipation of the luxuries the very kennelly waters would afford, rendered it an object of considerable gratification. The baths at Rosetta were esteemed very fine, and Savary describes them as such; therefore they must be mentioned. The curious stranger enters first into a large saloon, where many people are laying naked in bed, or getting up, having performed their ablutions: he then passes through narrow passages, smelling shockingly, from the abuses allowed in them, each becoming gradually warmer, till the steam heat is almost intolerable; when he arrives in the room where the baths are, there he sees a number of naked people, in various attitudes, some in the water, others rubbing down by the attendants, with gloves filled with cotton. Their horrid squalid figures, with their bald heads, excepting a little tuft of hair left on the crown, and bristly black beards, made the place resemble a den of satyrs. No scene

* The Mahometan ladies consider their faces as the sacred part of modesty, and are totally indifferent as to the concealment of the rest of their persons. These faces they are particular in ornamenting on the forehead, cheeks, and chin, with large blue blotches, resembling the tattooing, which sailors use to mark themselves with.

could

could be more disgusting; and it is astonishing how any person could remain five minutes, since the air is so tainted and oppressive. Hundreds of English, attracted by the description, attempted to get as far as the baths, but were obliged to turn back when they had advanced a little way. The Mosaic pavement, with which, however, the floors are paved, is really beautiful, and repays some inconvenience.

In the town had been found large French magazines, and much private property. The commandant of the place, St. Foe, particularly suffered, having been obliged to leave all his baggage behind. Madame Menou had retired in time, but several Egyptian ladies, wives to the French officers, were left, who all received the most generous protection from the English. By the greatest exertions, the town had been saved from a Turkish pillage, only a few houses being plundered, and these but triflingly: amongst those who lost some property, was Mrs. D'Arcy, the sister of Wortly Montague's wife; she had resided at Rosetta many years, having married a merchant, by whom she has a son, whose learning and researches will probably one day throw much light on that interesting country; unfortunately, she had through apprehension left her house; the Turks finding it empty entered, but only took some plate, and did not meddle with a most valuable library.

The day for advancing being fixed, the Captain Pacha determined to move on with his troops, in which resolution he was much encouraged, as his influence over his own army and the inhabitants would prove from his presence alone of great advantage, but when his zeal and activity were included, the measure became of the first consequence. Still he did not allow unalloyed satisfaction at this intention to be felt. From unaccountable prejudices, he insisted on the recall of Sir Sydney Smith, the saviour of the Turkish empire. The Turks probably never forgave that generous honesty, which would not betray an

enemy,

enemy, and they attributed to him the defeat of the Grand Vizir at Heliopolis.*

Sir Sydney was endeared to officers and men by his conduct, courage, and affability. With pride they beheld the hero of Acre; with admiration they reflected on the convention of El Arish; they had witnessed his exertions, and calculated on his *enterprize*. The Arabs regarded him as a superior being. To be the friend of Smith, was the highest honour they coveted, and his word the only pledge they required. No trouble, no exertions, no expence, had been spared by him to obtain their friendship, and elevate in their opinions the national character. But the order was given, and remonstrance would have been unworthy: it is true, that as a seaman he could not complain on being ordered to reassume the command of his ship; but the high power he had been invested with, the ability he had displayed as a soldier and statesman, entitled him to a superior situation in this expedition, and the interest of the service seemed to require, that the connexion he had formed with the Mamelukes, should through him be maintained. The army saw Sir Sydney then leave them with regret, but he carried with him their best wishes and gratitude.

Colonel Montresor, of the 18th, was appointed to be commandant of Rosetta, for which situation no officer could have been better selected, as it was one which required very conciliating manners and discretion.† Pre-

* Sir Sydney, on receiving Lord Keith's refusal to the convention of El Arish, instantly sent off an express with it to Cairo, as he knew General Kleber was to evacuate that city immediately on the faith of that treaty; thus preferring the maintenance of his own and nation's honour to a temporary advantage. The messenger arrived a few hours before the evacuation was to have been completed, and the consequences are well known. But certainly the Turks had so fully depended on its execution, as to have advanced without artillery or ammunition.

† A general amnesty and exemption from requisition had been assured the inhabitants; but the Turkish general in Rosetta, notwithstanding, levied a contribution of fifty purses on the

Previous to quitting Rosetta, accounts came that the Christians of a village in the Delta had been murdered by the Turks. General Hutchinson fearing that this might be the signal for a general massacre, obtained from the Captain Pacha an edict, which menaced with the severest punishment those who should be guilty of the crime.

On the 2d of May an Arab, who had been in the French service, joined the patrole in the Delta; and two English sailors, who had belonged to the Cormorant, with two Arabs, the same day escaped from the enemy, and arrived in the British camp; they could give no very important information, but their joy was excessive to find themselves again amongst their countrymen.

A few days before a messenger had arrived from Morad Bey, with an answer to a letter sent from the English Commander in Chief, accompanied by the Grand Signor's firman and Captain Pacha's guarantee of protection. He assured the English general, that if his army advanced towards Cairo, he would join him, but observed that he dare not make a decisive movement previously; and in a letter to Sir Sydney he wrote, "How can I be attached to the French? Have they not deprived me of my sovereignty, my honour, and revenue? but it is on the English faith alone I can depend. The Turks have no right to my confidence." Alluding to the hostility of the Turks against him, and the unnatural inveteracy of people who professed the same faith, he beautifully expresses himself, "Melancholy is it to reflect, that the arrow which has stuck in the eagle's wing is tipped with the eagle's feather."

It was now that the general received advice of his death: he

the merchants, each purse to contain five hundred piastres; and threatened them with strangling if they discovered the transaction to the Captain Pacha or the English. In five days the money was paid. Such transactions as these made such a command very delicate.

had been seized with the plague, whilst gradually descending the Nile to join the English, three days before his decease, and expired on the 22d of April. Twice in the former part of his life had he been cured of this malady, but his constitution was latterly impaired by his anxieties. The Mamelukes this year had suffered severely from the plague; for in Upper Egypt this fever had raged so violently as to destroy sixty thousand people, and forty thousand in Cairo were attacked with it. On his death bed Morad charged Osman Bey Tambourgi,* whom he had recommended as his successor, to attach himself to the English. The French say, *vice versa*; but the proof is in his former correspondence, and the immediate communication made of this advice by Tambourgi himself, with an assurance of implicit conformity.

The Beys and Mamelukes regretted the death of this extraordinary great man sincerely, and when they buried him at Saouague, near Tahta, they paid the compliment to his valour of breaking his sabre into his grave, as an expression that none of them was worthy after him to wear his arms.

General Regnier's statement of his character shall be given, since the French had most communication with him, and therefore should know his character best.

" Morad Bey was no ordinary man; he possessed, in an eminent degree, the virtues and the weaknesses which attach to that point of civilization the Mamelukes are arrived at. Abandoned to all the impetuosity of his passions, in his first emotions he was terrible; but his vehemence frequently subsided in an extreme weakness. Gifted by nature with that ascendancy of character which marks men for empire, he possessed the instinct to command, without any knowledge of the duties of a governor.

* So called from having been a drummer originally amongst the Mamelukes.

Prodigal

Prodigal and rapacious, he lavished all on his friends, and then oppressed the people to supply his own wants. To these general traits must be added an extraordinary strength of body, a courage not to be daunted, and a confidence superior to misfortune, which never for a moment deserted him in all the numerous crises of his distracted life."

Morad Bey had fought for his independence as long as there was prospect of success, but deserted by the Turks,* and pressed by General Desaix, he had no other alternative than to be driven from the whole of his government, or compromise for a part; and he judiciously chose the moment to treat, when his means still made his alliance desirable to the French; but he never was in heart reconciled to them: his religion and pride forbad the friendship, independent of other motives.

The following anecdote is also related, as the cause of his personal inveteracy against them. Some French officers of rank assembled at the house of Madam Morad Bey, the widow of the great Ali Bey, who entertained them with all the hospitality she could possibly manifest, and as they retired, presented the young Beauharnois with a ring of considerable value. A few days afterwards a contribution was laid on her property, of far greater extent than her proportion had previously been fixed at, and much beyond her means to pay. On complaint being made, she received for answer, "that as it was understood she still possessed very costly ornaments, no mitigation could be pleaded." This exaction then appeared to be founded on the present she had so generously, but as it proved imprudently, given to the relative of Bonaparte, with the motive of shewing honour to that general. As such it was considered as the grossest breach of faith and hospitality, nor could Morad Bey ever speak of the transaction without the bitterest expressions of indignation.

* He had information of a person being even appointed to assassinate him.

The day before the army moved, the Sheik of Rhamanie's son came to Rosetta, having been deputed by the inhabitants to pledge fealty to the Turks, and to obtain the assurance of protection from the Captain Pacha and the English General; since they feared that whenever the armies moved against Rhamanie, the defence of the French would involve them in destruction. His father, he stated, had been arrested by the French General who commanded there, was charged with holding a correspondence to betray the place, and momentarily expected to suffer death.

The effective force of the English army assembled at El Hamed amounted to

Cavalry - - - - -	300
Infantry - - - - -	4000
Artillery - - - - -	112
Total - - - - -	4412

But the want of horses to drag the cannon, and of camels to carry the ammunition and water for the men, there not being above one hundred altogether, was a very serious disadvantage.

On the 4th of May the 89th regiment, 20 of the 12th dragoons, and a body of Arnauts, amounting to near 1200 men, under the command of Colonel Stuart, were ordered to cross the Nile, and take post at the canal of Birimbal, with instructions to conform his movements to the main army. With this column were appointed

4 Turkish guns with horses
2 Six pounders
2 Royal howitzers
2 Medium 12 pounders

These were directed to remain in the boats until wanted, or sufficient

sufficient bullocks could be obtained to drag them; but positive orders were issued that receipts should be given for whatever was taken, not to make use of the French mode of supplying their wants.

In crossing, the flat sunk, and several Albanians were drowned, nor would the rest embark again until the 89th shewed them the example. May the 5th the main army marched in two columns, the Turks preceding; one passed along the Nile, the other along the shore of Lake Edko. The advanced guard consisted of the 11th light dragoons, the Corsican Rangers, the 40th flank companies, the Queen's, and 58th, under the orders of Colonel Spencer; General Craddock's brigade was composed of the 18th, 79th, and 90th regiments, with the 12th dragoons; and General Doyle's, of the 2d, 8th, and 30th regiments. The Turkish army, under the orders of the Caia Bey, was about 4000 strong. With this force moved 12 field pieces, and 8 Turkish field pieces. Many Turkish gun vessels and English armed dgerms sailed at the same time, and the transport dgerms followed. Captain Stevenson, of the navy, whose subsequent zeal and gallantry rendered such services, was commodore of the whole, and with him were Captains Corry and Morrison, officers of the greatest merit. The Turks moved with some regularity, and did not fire off their musquets as formerly. On the march, Mulley Mahammed, the Prince of Fez, who had come from Morad Bey, joined; his attendants were but few, but those very fine men, well appointed, and himself was mounted on an Arabian mare, of considerable excellence. This singular man was considered by the inhabitants as a saint; his piety had acquired this character, and his bravery could only be accounted for from his consciousness of being invulnerable. Always a determined enemy of the French, he had headed the insurrection at Damanhour, when Bonaparte

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was in Syria, and contributed much to retard the subsequent capitulation of Cairo. A reward had been set on his head, but he gained greater triumph from the fidelity of the people: his dark eye was remarkably keen, his face florid, and extremely handsome: his turban and robe were white, edged with gold, a red and gold embroidered pouch was suspended from his shoulders by a broad gold lace belt: his arms were superiorly fine, his horsemanship and dexterity admirable; indeed, every motion was graceful; his modest yet noble mien, a certain expression of sanctity in all his actions, enforced an immediate idea of his pretensions and character. He prophesied success to the English, and remained their zealous friend; but after the fall of Cairo, avarice produced him enemies, and he was compelled to fly from Turkish persecution. A few days previously he came to seek the General, from whom he had received every proof of favour and regard, but who unfortunately was now gone into Cairo. His countenance had lost its animation, and his spirit seemed broken with misfortune.

The army halted on the rear of the canal of Deroute, and encamped in two lines, arriving on the ground about three o'clock in the afternoon; but it was afterwards thought that the Turks, who had encamped in the first line, were not sufficiently supported by the English, therefore, at six o'clock the next morning, the British camp advanced.

General Hutchinson, who had received advices of the Grand Vizir's army having arrived at Salahieh, and of his advanced guard having taken possession of Balbeis without meeting any opposition, with the assurance of the Vizir that 2000 cavalry which he had detached forwards with Tizir Pacha were on their march to join, and would arrive about the 6th of May in the English camp, determined to await their junction before

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he attacked the French, and particularly as the left of their position seemed favourable for cavalry operations.

Colonel Stuart advanced in front of Montubis, a village famous for the dancing girls,* on the 5th instant, and on the 6th, between Sindioun and Foua; some Turks were sent forwards into the latter town, as it was understood a French detachment was there, which regularly went to collect provisions, money, &c.

Colonel Stuart and Lord Blayney preceding to reconnoitre, were met by some Arabs, carrying four heads of Frenchmen, who had been surprised in the town; but the remainder of the detachment, an officer and 11 men, had escaped across to El Aft. The exultation of the inhabitants was very great at seeing these reeking trophies; and was only surpassed by the acclamations with which they hailed the arrival of the British officers.

Towards evening a gun-boat, stationed at the back of the island in the Nile on the side of Foua, fired some shot, and a body of Eclaireurs appeared. Colonel Stuart had directed the guns to be brought up directly, and another detachment of Albanese arriving, he placed the whole behind a bank, when a brisk fire of musquetry and artillery commenced, which continued during the evening and part of the night. The French attempted to pass four gun-boats, but two were sunk by the Turks, one was destroyed by themselves (a five gun vessel), and only one escaped; 26 large dgerms were abandoned, and several of the enemy were killed.

* These dancing girls, called Almas, whom Savary describes as beautiful, elegant, and voluptuous, are frightfully hideous, ill drest, and coarse: their movements, instead of being graceful, are violent and disgusting, contortions of the body inspiring very different sensations from those they are intended to excite. At Cairo there was not even a better sort; but it should be related as an instance of the state of society even among the Franks, that these Almas are constantly employed to dance before their women and themselves; and that at a wedding they become an unalienable part of the ceremony, and are admired in the degree that they are most indecent.

General

General Hutchinson was very angry with the Turks for still continuing the practice of mangling and cutting off the heads of the prisoners; and the Captain Pacha, at his remonstrance, issued again very severe orders against it; but the Turks justified themselves for the massacre of the French by the massacre at Jaffa. As this act and the poisoning of the sick have never been credited, because of such enormities being so incredibly atrocious, a digression to authenticate them may not be deemed intrusively tedious; and had not the influence of power interfered, the act of accusation would have been preferred in a more solemn manner, and the damning proofs produced by penitent agents of these murders; but neither menaces, recompense, nor promises can altogether stifle the cries of outraged humanity, and the day for retribution of justice is only delayed.

Bonaparte having carried the town of Jaffa by assault, many of the garrison were put to the sword; but the greater part flying into the mosques, and imploring mercy from their pursuers, were granted their lives; and let it be well remembered, that an exasperated army in the moment of revenge, when the laws of war justified the rage, yet heard the voice of pity, received its impression, and proudly refused to be any longer the executioners of an unresisting enemy. Soldiers of the Italian army, this is a laurel wreath worthy of your fame, a trophy of which the subsequent treason of an individual shall not deprive you!

Three days afterwards, Bonaparte, who had expressed much resentment at the compassion manifested by his troops, and determined to relieve himself from the maintenance and care of three thousand eight hundred prisoners,* ordered them to be marched

* Bonaparte had in person inspected previously the whole body, amounting to near five thousand men, with the object of saving those who belonged to the towns he was preparing to

marched to a rising ground near Jaffa; where a division of French infantry formed against them. When the Turks had entered into their fatal alignment, and the mournful preparations were completed, the signal gun fired. Vollies of musquetry and grape instantly played against them; and Bonaparte, who had been regarding the scene through a telescope, when he saw the smoke ascending, could not restrain his joy, but broke out into exclamations of approval; indeed, he had just reason to dread the refusal of his troops thus to dishonour themselves. Kleber had remonstrated in the most strenuous manner, and the officer of the Etat Major who commanded (for the general to whom the division belonged was absent) even refused to execute the order without a written instruction: but Bonaparte was too cautious, and sent Berthier to enforce obedience.

When the Turks had all fallen, the French troops humanely endeavoured to put a period to the sufferings of the wounded, but some time elapsed before the bayonet could finish what the fire had not destroyed, and probably many languished days in agony. Several French officers, by whom partly these details are furnished, declared, that this was a scene, the retrospect of which tormented their recollection, and that they could not reflect on it without horror, accustomed as they had been to sights of cruelty.

These were the prisoners whom Assalini, in his very able

to attack. The age and noble physiognomy of a veteran Janissary attracted his observation, and he asked him sharply, "Old man, what did you do here?" The Janissary, undaunted, replied, "I must answer that question by asking you the same, your answer will be, that you came to serve your Sultan; so did I mine." The intrepid frankness of the reply excited universal interest in his favour. Bonaparte even smiled. "He is saved," whispered some of the aids de camp. "You know not Bonaparte," observed one who had served with him in Italy, "that smile, I speak from experience, does not proceed from the sentiment of benevolence, remember what I say." The opinion was too true. The Janissary was left in the ranks, doomed to death, and suffered.

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work on the Plague, alludes to, when he says that for three days the Turks shewed no symptoms of that disease, and it was their putrifying remains which produced the pestilential malady, which he describes as afterwards making such ravages in the French army.

Their bones still lie in heaps, and are shewn to every traveller who arrives; nor can they be confounded with those who perished in the assault; since this field of butchery lies a mile from the town.

Such a fact should not, however, be alledged without some proof, or leading circumstance stronger than assertion being produced to support it; but there would be a want of generosity in naming individuals, and branding them to the latest posterity with infamy for obeying a command when their submission became an act of necessity, since the whole army did not mutiny against the execution; therefore to establish further the authenticity of the relation, this only can be mentioned, that it was Bonn's division which fired, and thus every one is afforded the opportunity of satisfying themselves respecting the truth, by enquiring of officers serving in the different brigades composing this division.

The next circumstance is of a nature which requires indeed the most particular details to establish, since the idea can scarce be entertained that the commander of an army should order his own countrymen (or if not immediately such, those amongst whom he had been naturalized,) to be deprived of existence, when in a state which required the kindest consideration. But the annals of France record the frightful crimes of a Robespierre, a Carriere, and historical truth must now recite one equal to any which has blackened its page.

Bonaparte finding that his hospitals at Jaffa were crowded with sick, sent for a physician, whose name should be inscribed

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in letters of gold, but which from weighty reasons cannot be here inserted: on his arrival he entered into a long conversation with him respecting the danger of contagion, concluding at last with the remark, that something must be done to remedy the evil, and that the destruction of the sick at present in the hospital was the only measure which could be adopted. The physician, alarmed at the proposal, bold in the confidence of virtue and the cause of humanity, remonstrated vehemently, representing the cruelty as well as the atrocity of such a murder; but finding that Bonaparte persevered and menaced, he indignantly left the tent, with this memorable observation: "Neither my principles, nor the character of my profession, will allow me to become a human butcher; and, General, if such qualities as you insinuate are necessary to form a great man, I thank my God that I do not possess them."

Bonaparte was not to be diverted from his object by moral considerations; he persevered, and found an apothecary who (dreading the weight of power, but who since has made an atonement to his mind by unequivocally confessing the fact) consented to become his agent, and to administer poison to the sick. Opium at night was distributed in gratifying food, the wretched unsuspecting victims banqueted, and in a few hours five hundred and eighty soldiers, who had suffered so much for their country, perished thus miserably by the order of its idol.

Is there a Frenchman whose blood does not chill with horror at the recital of such a fact? Surely the manes of these murdered unoffending people must be now hovering round the seat of government, and . . . .

If a doubt should still exist as to the veracity of this statement, let the members of the Institute at Cairo be asked what passed in their sitting after the return of Bonaparte from Syria;

ria: they will relate that the same virtuous physician, who refused to become the destroyer of those committed to his protection, accused Bonaparte of high treason in the full assembly, against the honour of France, her children, and humanity; that he entered into the full details of the poisoning of the sick, and the massacre of the garrison, aggravating these crimes by charging Bonaparte with strangling, previously at Rosetta, a number of French and Copts, who were ill of the plague; thus proving that this disposal of his sick was a premeditated plan, which he wished to introduce into general practice. In vain Bonaparte attempted to justify himself;* the members sat petrified with terror, and almost doubted whether the scene passing before their eyes was not illusion. Assuredly all these proceedings will not be found in the minutes of the Institute; no, Bonaparte's policy foresaw the danger, and power produced the erasure; but let no man, calculating on the force of circumstances which may prevent such an avowal as is solicited, presume on this to deny the whole: there are records which remain, and which in due season will be produced. In the interim, this representation will be sufficient to stimulate enquiry; and, Frenchmen, your honour is indeed interested in the examination.

* Bonaparte pleaded that he ordered the garrison to be destroyed, because he had not provisions to maintain them, or strength enough to guard them; and that it was evident if they escaped, they would act against the French, since amongst the prisoners were five hundred of the garrison of El Arish, who had promised not to serve again, (they had been compelled in passing through Jaffa by the commandant to serve); and that he destroyed the sick to prevent contagion, and save themselves from falling into the hands of the Turks; but these arguments, however specious, were refuted directly, and Bonaparte was at last obliged to rest his defence on the positions of Machiavel. When he afterwards left Egypt, the Scavans were so angry at being left behind, contrary to promise, that they elected the physician president of the institute; an act which spoke for itself fully.

Let

Let us hope also that in no country will there be found another man of such Machiavelian principles, as by sophistry to palliate those transactions; nor must the judgment abuse itself by bringing to recollection the horrors of the French revolution, and thus diminishing the force of those crimes by the frequency of equal guilt in France during her contest for *Liberty* or *Slavery*.*

On the morning of the 7th, about ten o'clock, the Turkish cavalry, who had gone out on a patrole along the Nile, discovered that the French had quitted the position of El Aft, and nearly at the same time the English patrole on the right entered.

* An anecdote, after what has been said against, should, however, be related, as a proof of the commanding genius of Bonaparte, and will be told as repeated by a Frenchman of high consideration. "Bonaparte, notwithstanding his successes and fame, was considered by those who knew him best, as not in himself possessing the great qualities ascribed to him. We regarded him as indebted more to an extraordinary peculiar good fortune, forcing irresistible circumstances to his advantage, than to his own abilities and exertions. After his disasters and repulse at Acre, our opinion was confirmed, and we expected to see him return dejected, conscious of disgrace, his shame aggravated by the recollection of his having sent a messenger with a dispatch, and which was read in the institute, in which he expressed himself, "In three days I shall be in Acre; when you open this, be assured that Dgezzar Pacha is no more."—The day before he entered Cairo, we received orders, to our astonishment, to prepare illuminations, triumphal arches, &c. for honour to the conquerors of Syria, and of Dgezzar Pacha. The troops who had despondingly anticipated a different reception, whose murmurs against the man who had planned their expedition amounted to mutiny, whose expressions even menaced death to him as an atonement for their seven thousand comrades who had perished, saw with surprise the honours paid to them; heard their chief and themselves stiled conquerors; and, in the delirium of vanity, forgot their injuries and defeats. The next morning Bonaparte, assured of the intoxication still continuing, assembled his army on parade, distributed rewards, then moved forwards a battalion of grenadiers, whom he upbraided with having refused to make another assault on Acre, and sentenced them to carry their arms slung behind till their character was retrieved." It was then, said the narrator, we pronounced Bonaparte really a great man. We confessed his knowledge of human nature, who in a few hours could so improve his situation, and reassume his influence, as to disgrace those very men, who the day before would, with the applause of their comrades (now approving of their dishonour) had he uttered a word of censure, have instantly assassinated him.

It

It had been evacuated in the night. The position was certainly not tenable without great danger; the canal, which formed the front line, was to be ascended in every part with facility, and the left was easily to be turned; for though the ground there was swampy, still cavalry could pass, and even light guns with some caution. A hill of some height was in rear of the left, but which could not be maintained, as the Nile formed such a considerable elbow, that troops continuing there when either flank was turned, must have been cut off: besides these weak points, Colonel Stuart's column completely enfiladed their rear, and his fire could have swept their whole position.

In the evening Colonel Stuart moved to Surafa, and the main army advanced to occupy the position abandoned; but to prevent the danger of contagion, the army was encamped a little beyond the canal, and the French huts were ordered to be burnt. The quantity of flies which filled the tents here is almost incredible. Towards night, milliards settled in each; when gunpowder was placed under them, and they were blown up, the ground appeared as if a cask of raisins had been spilt.

At El Aft the first accurate statement of the French force opposed immediately was obtained, and in such a manner that the story ought to be recorded. As the soldiers rambled amongst the huts to find any thing useful which might have escaped the conflagration, one of the 40th flank company saw a piece of paper, marked with figures, lying amongst the ashes; he could not read, but with a consideration which cannot be too much commended, went instantly to his officer, Captain D'Ancer, who, perceiving the paper to be a return, delivered the same to the general; it proved to be a detailed statement of the French army, as certified by the commissariat and commanding officer, making their force amount to 3331 men, including artillery, sappers, and miners, but exclusive

clusive of the cavalry, which was near 600 men. A curious letter was also brought, written by General Belliard to another General, in which he complained of the weakness of his garrison at Cairo, the dreadful ravages of the plague, and stated that in six days one hundred and fifty soldiers had died, and within the last forty-eight hours his wife and three servants, concluding with the melancholy account of his having been in consequence obliged to burn all his butin.

The same day the Turkish cavalry arrived, and disappointment was greater even than when the Turkish horses were received at Marmorice: in fact, these troops were not real Turks, but Syrians, almost naked, many without arms, beyond belief miserably mounted, totally undisciplined, even to savage wildness. Such a reinforcement, and their force did not exceed 600 men, offered no great advantage, yet was not to be rejected. The Captain Pacha was vexed particularly at the defalcation of their numbers; and the alledged acts of pillage and oppression which they had been guilty of in their march across the Delta, were subjects of serious mortification to him.

Every body was anxious to see Fouah as the former capital of Egypt, but the place was worse than Rosetta. Good bread was, however, sold there, the French having instructed them, as they here had their ovens.

Madame Menou's relations lived in this town, but they were not insulted; she had been here a little before the arrival of the Turks, and was again obliged to fly.

The intelligence of Mr. Keith's death, secretary to Sir Sydney Smith, was brought this day: he had just embarked at Rosetta, when the dgerm upset, and although his body was soon found, his life could not be saved. It is remarkable, that he was an excellent swimmer, and that the Arabs all escaped, but a Turkish interpreter was also drowned. In Mr. Keith,

Sir

Sir Sydney lost a most valuable friend, and the world an excellent man: he was well known, and much respected in the French army, having been at Cairo arranging the convention with General Kleber. At Acre he had particularly distinguished himself, and was always solicitous to merit the esteem of his illustrious protector.

On the morning of the 9th the army marched towards Rahmaniah, Colonel Stuart at the same time moving towards Dessoug. Colonel Murray, Assistant Quarter-Master General, proceeded with an advanced guard, and approached close to the canal of Alexandria, which originates at Rahmaniah. Some horsemen were on the banks near the village of Mehallet Daout, who came forwards waving their swords; they proved to be friendly Arabs, who eagerly seized the hands of Colonel Murray and some officers with him, and kissed them, a token of respect and amity which was by no means agreeable, particularly since it was known the plague raged in every village now before the army.

Colonel Murray with Major Birch went along the canal towards the right of the French position, and Major Wilson with some Arabs proceeded obliquely to its left, and advanced within four hundred yards of the village of Rhamaniah, forcing the enemy's videttes to retire a little. In ten minutes the Arabs, always on the look-out, discovering the French cavalry were mounting in the camp, and part moving out towards the English army, obliged them to retire, and the French passing a division along the canal towards Mehallet Daout, nearly cut off Colonel Murray and the patrole. The Commander in Chief could scarcely credit the report that the French had taken up a position with the right, centre, and left on the banks of the Nile; but they seemed anxious to correct the error, as about six hundred cavalry now appeared on the right of the front of the

A Plan of the Affair of Rahmanie in Egypt between the Ottoman & British Armies Commanded by LIEUT. GENERAL LORD HUTCHISON and the French Forces, Commanded by General Lagrange, 9th May 1801.

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the canal. The army had halted, the Turks being on the left, and the British in two lines on the right. The Syrian cavalry had advanced and skirmished closely and sharply with the French, who also opened two guns against them; at the same time the gun-boats, by a breeze springing up, were enabled to come into action, and open a heavy fire upon the position.

The 12th dragoons were advanced, after some time, with two guns, to support the Syrians, and prevent the French making any movement; on the artillery unlimbering, the French opened from several guns such a fire as to force the cavalry to take ground to the right, the first shot having carried off Captain King's leg, and killed three horses, the second also had struck in the squadron. The British artillery, however, remained firm, maintaining the cannonade until positive orders were brought them to retreat. As the enemy seemed only inclined to cover themselves, not to make a serious attack, the general remained on the ground he had first halted on; partial skirmishes continued between the advanced guards, and the Turkish and English gun-boats kept up an incessant cannonade. During the affair a French shell had set on fire a corn field, which burnt furiously, threatening to extend all over the country; happily it was extinguished. An unfortunate chance shot took off the leg of Colonel Thompson of the artillery as he was riding to the left. He died afterwards at Rosetta, exciting universal regret.

Colonel Stuart had proceeded towards Dessoug, changing his order of march, as the 89th, the English dragoons, with artillery now preceded the Turks some way, the colonel anticipating an attack. At half past five in the morning Colonel Stuart had perceived a patrole of the enemy, whom some officers shortly joined, and who after attentively reconnoitring the British column, returned to Rhamanieh. Unfortunately this morning there was an universal failure of wind, so that the

gun

gun-boats could not get up the river; but Colonel Stuart moved on, and proceeding himself to reconnoitre, was joined by the Sheik of Dessoug,* who headed a body of Arabs.

The French having ascertained the force of his column, pushed across the Nile about 300 of the infantry, some cavalry, and light artillery. Colonel Stuart seeing this, halted his troops to await the co-operation of the gun-boats, which might cut off the retreat of the detachments, and to gain time for the combined attack of General Hutchinson, lest the enemy might send across a very superior body, and overpower him. On General Hutchinson's advancing, and a detachment of Albanese coming up, he sent the latter forwards to Dessoug, when a brisk fire of musquetry commenced. About eight o'clock, the breeze springing up, the boats made sail, the French batteries, as soon as they came within their range, attacked them, nearly sinking, almost directly, one commanded by Lieutenant Hobbs, of the Delft, who was killed by a 24 pounder, which entered in at the bow, striking off the heads of two sailors, and wounding two more.

Colonel Stuart then directed Lord Blaney to advance with the grenadiers of the 89th regiment, and six light guns, to take up a position along the Nile, within half musquet shot of the batteries. The enemy opposed in their front, resisted for about a quarter of an hour, then fled to their boats, covered by the fire of two heavy batteries on the island, commanding the entrance of the harbour of Rahmanieh, and where the Nile was not pistol shot across.

The grenadiers of the 89th regiment, notwithstanding the constant discharges of grape, marched steadily on to the dyke running parallel to the Nile, behind which Colonel Stuart di-

* This man proved of infinite service to Colonel Stuart afterwards, in procuring for him information, provisions, &c. and the Grand Vizir, on Colonel Stuart's recommendation, gave him a considerable post in the country.

rected

rected them to lay down; at the same time Captain Adye, placing his guns on the most eligible points, continued for some time, exposed as he was, contending with the superior weight of metal, and the covered batteries of the French: but as General Hutchinson was not attacking the position, Colonel Stuart directed that Captain Adye should discontinue the cannonade, and place his men out of fire.

By the bold movement of the 89th, the French dgerms, above seventy in number, which were endeavouring to escape, had been forced back into the harbour, and one gun-boat sunk. The Turks, who had seen with admiration this advance, could scarce find expressions to explain their sense of such conduct. "*Bono John!*" was vociferated whenever any officer crossed over from the western bank, and "**Tieb!*" with the thumb raised, was re-echoed by the Arabs; indeed, the gallantry of that movement, and the judicious disposition of Colonel Stuart, must ever reflect the highest credit on him, Lord Blaney, Captain Adye, and the corps.

The Turks moved down afterwards, they were posted on the right and left of the British, but no representation could induce them not to fix their standards.† Although these of course attracted the fire of the enemy, shewing them where their guns should be directed, prejudice and habit overcame reason and fear. During the whole of the evening, the French fired their cannon occasionally against them, and whenever they saw officers passing to and from Dessoug.‡ The action with the gun-

* *Tieb* signifies excellent. John was the Turks constant appellation of an Englishman, who added *bono*, supposing it to be the English interpretation of their word, signifying good.

† With every ten men is a stand of colours. The Turks always plant these on the little parapet they throw up wherever they stop, and behind which they sit, the ditch being in the rear, consistent with their principle of doing every thing contrary to Europeans.

‡ They fired occasionally at a mosque, near the village, in which the wounded were placed. As the surgeon of the 89th was dressing them, a cannon ball broke through the dome, whirled round it, and fell upon his back, without doing him the smallest injury.

 boats

boats and batteries continued incessantly, in which the Turks behaved with the greatest intrepidity, the Captain Pacha encouraging them from the shore, and always taking opportunities of exposing himself to danger.

At four o'clock in the evening General Hutchinson imagining that the enemy might endeavour to retreat on Alexandria, moved the army forwards, that the canal might be completely gained.

Colonel Spencer with the advanced guard marched on in column, as the French cavalry covering the canal were also in column, with several pieces of cannon near them, which opened their fire on him; as he persevered, the French retired, and Colonel Spencer gained the canal and the village of Mehallet Daout, into which he detached the dragoons and Corsican Rangers.

General Hutchinson advanced with General Craddock's and General Doyle's brigade in line, inclining to the right, as he approached the canal refusing his left, to *appui* that flank upon the Turks; at the same time Colonel Spencer formed on the right the 40th and 58th regiments, leaving the Queen's in column.

The French cavalry, when they saw the army advancing, deployed into line, taking post between Lacana and Mehallet Daout, so as to menace in flank and rear any movement made across the canal. During this deployment, two British guns cannonaded them.

General Hutchinson seeing this movement of the cavalry, and having succeeded in his first object, determined to delay all further offensive measures until Colonel Stuart had been enabled during the night to erect batteries, which must force them to leave their camp; Captain Brice, who had been sent across there, having returned with the report that in eight hours the guns would be covered, and that when they opened, the French troops could not remain half an hour in the position. The French tirailleurs kept up a very smart fire, which galling

galling the British line, flankers from each regiment were sent out to cover the front, and the two British guns placed on the canal fired frequently ; the Turkish artillery was also active ; the French cavalry in the plain masked their cannon, and only detached skirmishers to the front, against which the British cavalry was opposed.

As night was now advancing fast, and the flash of each musquet became visible, General Hutchinson was anxious to put an end to this ineffectual firing, he therefore ordered the Turks, who had crawled up within a hundred yards of the works, where they laid behind a bank, to retire ; instead of falling back in a dispersed order, they assembled together, being solicitous to move in a manner which they fancied to be more consistent with English tactique. When the formation was completed, they set off running. The French conceiving they were flying from them through fear, pursued, shouting in triumph. General Hutchinson, afraid that the Turks would suffer severely, found himself obliged to move his line to the left, particularly as between them and him was a considerable interval. The French seeing his intention, checked their pursuit ; but before the British movement could be completed, night set in, and the army halted on the march without entering into the new alignement. The exertions of the generals, officers, and staff, could not remedy the confusion, so that the troops remained uncertain of their position. To add to this misfortune, the Turks on a sudden, after every thing was tranquil, began a sharp fire of small arms, which almost increased to vollies, causing in the army some uneasiness, lest a night attack might be intended; this alarm proved to be only extreme precaution on their part, as they would not allow a shadow to be seen, without ascertaining its substance by shot. Colonel Stuart's corps remained quiet till about eleven at night, when a French gun-boat attempting to escape out of Rhamanieh, the 89th and Turks recommenced firing,

firing, which the enemy returned. In the result, she was obliged to put back. Afterwards, during the night, Captain Corry, with the English light boats, gallantly passed, and took a station beyond Rhamanieh. The soldiers of the main army, tired with the excessive fatigue of the day, laid down to rest on the ground without care; but this was an anxious night for those who had the responsibility of their welfare.

A considerable time before day-light, the whole were under arms. As soon as day dawned, the troops moved to occupy the appointed position, previous to the attack.

Whilst this was arranging, Captain Brice, who had been across the Nile to inspect the new batteries which had been completed, with the guns mounted in them, returned, bringing the information that a French officer had come out of the fort of Rhamanieh with a flag of truce, and that the entrenched camp was evacuated. As soon as morning broke, a white flag had been perceived on the fort, and an officer carrying one in a boat, passed down the Nile. The Turks with Colonel Stuart instantly firing, compelled him to come over to that side. When the nature of the *parliamentaire* was explained to them by Colonel Stuart, he was allowed to pass on, but the Captain Pacha's troops, on his landing on the western bank, insisted on his going to their commander. At length he reached the general, to whom he offered to surrender the fort at discretion, which of course was accepted, and, in addition, preservation of private property was accorded the garrison.*

An order was instantly issued to forbid any person going into the village of Rhamanieh, as this officer represented that the plague raged there violently. The precaution was too late, the Turks had crawled up at day-light close to the position, entered

* Captain Proby was sent to the Captain Pacha for his approval, who was much pleased at the attention, which convinced him still more of General Hutchinson's consideration and respect.

without

without resistance, proceeded on to the village in the hopes of plunder, ransacking even the hospitals. Some fears were entertained, lest they might wish to destroy the garrison, but they did not commit any violence.

During the time the French officer was with Colonel Stuart, heavy artillery had been heard in advance, which proved to be Captain Corry cannonading the French column of cavalry in their retreat, by which they lost several men.

The French had left eighty dgerms in the harbour, but had sunk all the gun-boats, overturned the artillery on the batteries into the river, destroyed the ammunition, and had done all the mischief possible. The wreck of property left, was a sufficient evidence of an unexpected and precipitate retreat.

In the fort into which British officers were admitted, were found very large magazines of biscuit, aqua date, and flour, which could not be spoilt in so short a time.

The Captain Pacha was extremely angry at the French having left things in this state, and almost regretted that a capitulation had been granted to the garrison of the fort; indeed, where mercy was to be sought, such conduct was extremely unhandsome. The place ought to have been abandoned altogether, or left in such a state as is usual for works to be resigned in at a capitulation.

Whilst the occupation of the camp was going forwards, Colonel Brown, of the 12th dragoons, arrived at head quarters, with the report that an officer of his regiment had fallen in with a French detachment of cavalry, all of whom he had made prisoners. They presently appeared, about fifty in number, of the 22d dragoons, the best and heaviest regiment in the army of Egypt. The story of the French captain is the best to give on this occasion, since there was no inducement for him to make a *French dispatch.* "He had left Alexandria four days since, with his

his party, as an escort to an aid de camp of General Bron, carrying dispatches from General Menou, and at the same time he conducted the post. About a mile from the right of Mehallet Daout, he was attacked by a party of Bedouin Arabs, who shot a serjeant, severely wounded the aid de camp, who fell from his horse, and five dragoons, but who with assistance were enabled to proceed. Presently afterwards he saw, to his great astonishment, a party of English dragoons advancing, for he had no idea of the allied armies being in the neighbourhood, since the inhabitants assured him that they remained at Rosetta, and that the firing he heard the day before proceeded from thence. I was struck, said he, with the gallantry of the young officer who headed the detachment: he came on in the most determined manner, and resistance, from every circumstance, being useless, I held out a white handkerchief, and surrendered."

The party of thirty dragoons of the 12th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Drake, had gone out to water their horses; hearing some firing, they proceeded to the spot, and happily arrived in time to have the credit of the success, and pleasure of saving the lives of so many men, who certainly would have been sacrificed by the Arabs. From this little affair a lesson is to be repeated, "that at no time, in an enemy's country, should cavalry go out in watering order without side arms." The 15th at Lannoy, in the year 1793, from this precaution, was engaged in a very brilliant rencontre.

Some men were sent to find the aid de camp and serjeant; the latter's body was discovered, but the head was taken away. The aid de camp had been more fortunate, and was brought into camp living; observing there was an anxiety expressed respecting the dispatches he carried, he solemnly assured the officer that "in the bustle of the affair he had dropped them;"

search

search was, however, in vain, although the officer who went to find them picked up the post letters, which were of course opened and read; no news was gained by the perusal; they all mentioned that politics and public subjects were interdicted in conversation and writing; nor did they even explain the cause of the arrest of Generals Regnier and Damas by General Menou in Alexandria, who had in the night of the 5th of May been sent on board two vessels, which sailed directly for France; the Lodi, carrying General Regnier, escaped, but the vessel in which General Damas embarked was taken, fortune again favouring one of her most deserving candidates, Captain Young,* of the La Pique frigate, by giving him above six thousand pounds in specie, which was on board the vessel, and which was said to be General Kleber's property; to General Damas Captain Young handsomely restored one hundred and fifty pounds, and to his officers their respective claims. The French government, of course, would reimburse General Kleber's widow, if the export of specie was not contrary to General Menou's orders. This circumstance it is supposed will furnish grounds for litigation in France.

General Doyle, with the 12th dragoons and a regiment of infantry, made a reconnoissance during the day to Damanhour, he found that none of the enemy had retired that way; General Hutchinson had conjectured that possibly General Lagrange might have made a feint as if going to Cairo, then changed his direction, and turned to Alexandria.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the garrison of the fort marched out, amounting to one hundred and ten men, commanded by a chef de brigade. It had been the intention of the French general to leave only fifty; but the troops broke open the liquor magazines, got drunk, and the surplus number could not walk away.

* Captain Young shared for the capture of the rich galleon taken off Cadiz.

The

The loss of the British in the affair of Rhamanieh amounted to four officers wounded, six men killed, and nineteen wounded. The Turks suffered more considerably. The French lost about one hundred men.

Their force had been augmented by troops from Alexandria since they quitted El Aft, and the number, as then ascertained and confirmed by the French generals afterwards, amounted to four thousand infantry, eight hundred cavalry, with thirty-three field pieces. The British army was under four thousand men, including the corps in the Delta, sickness having begun to break out amongst the troops. The Turks were five thousand, including those with Colonel Stuart; yet from the want of discipline, their strength cannot be rated as equal to more than fifteen hundred Europeans. The French officers dined with the general; and neither they nor the soldiers seemed to regret their destiny.* The cavalry officers were particularly pleased, being allowed to dispose of their own horses.

On the same day Major Moore, with a detachment of dragoons from Alexandria, arrived in camp, having passed by Beda, round Lake Edko to El Aft, not knowing previously of the English success. As his object was only a patrole, he returned back the next morning.

The position of Rhamanieh merits a particular description, as on the circumstances which occurred there much difference of opinion has arisen, and independent of this, as the most important military station of the interior, it demands attention.

At Rhamanieh commences the canal of Alexandria, which at high Nile is filled with water, when the cisterns of the latter city are replenished. At all other seasons of the year the canal is

* General Doyle met amongst the officers one who had served against him in America, and whom he had known there.

dry.

dry. From Rhamanieh it runs parallel with the Nile, about three hundred yards, then takes a direction at right angles to the village of Mehallet Daout, whilst one branch opens again into the Nile, from which this part is then distant about one hundred and twenty yards. This certainly was the line of defence which ought to have been chosen, since the maintenance secured a retreat upon Alexandria, nor could it easily have been turned, as a boggy bed of a rivulet, originally the Canopic branch of the Nile, ran nearly in a right angle from the left to Lake Edko, in attempting to ford which an officer had nearly been lost; even allowing that this position had been forced, the one the French did occupy would have been always open for them, by throwing back their left. This position had its right appuied upon the shoulder of the angle the canal formed, its left on Rhamanieh; in the centre was a fort (with nine guns), surrounded by a deep ditch; much swampy ground was in front of the fort, and before the whole ran the canal of Alexandria. Thus far the position was good; yet as its depth from the Nile was not a hundred and fifty yards, and the Nile not a hundred wide, no troops could possibly remain, when batteries were erected in the Delta. Grape would have reached any part, and the troops could only have been sheltered by running into the canal, from whence they could not have opposed the front attack.

Since the operations of the 9th instant have excited such variety of opinions, and many believe that the whole of the French force at Rhamanieh might have been taken, there would be great presumption in an inferior officer to pronounce positively whether the movements were dictated by judgment, and an impetuous ardour properly restrained; if more might have been done, or the retreat of the enemy altogether prevented: therefore the arguments on each side shall be fairly given, which, with the previous account, and an accurate at-

 tention

tention to the ground plan, will enable every one in this instance to form his own idea, nearly as well as if he had been present.

When the Commander in Chief advanced towards Rhamanieh, his attention had not been to attack, conceiving that the French position must be too strong for a *coup de main*, for he knew that a fort had been constructed, and the camp entrenched. When therefore he found that the position, although not so good as was expected, still was tenable against an assault without great loss, but that Colonel Stuart could during the night erect batteries which would destroy the fort, and oblige the enemy to abandon the position, with the only alternative of fighting in the field or surrendering, he did not wish to sacrifice troops by an unnecessary premature attack. To prevent the enemy's retreat was, however, an obvious consideration. The occupation of the canal cut them off from Alexandria; but to invest completely the position of Rhamanieh, required an extension of the line so as to appui each flank on the Nile. So extended, did the circumvallation offer a sufficient resistance to oppose any sortie during the night? It was impossible to change altogether the front, throwing the right on the Nile, and left on the canal, as then the gun-boats, dgerms, &c. would be exposed to certain destruction, and a route left open for the French to Rosetta or Alexandria, round Lake Edko; and with troops who could make the march they afterwards did, it is manifest, that if they had once gained the lead, the British could never have overtaken them. If the French obtained an advantage by this separation, the consequences would have been highly disastrous, even the fate of the campaign probably changed, since the united force of the British army was so inferior, as not to admit of any unprofitable diminution.

Such was the reasoning which induced the general not to attack, or make any movement, except for the occupation of the canal;

canal; and in the evening, when the Turks retired, every one saw, from the interval then left between them and the English, what danger must have accrued had there been a still greater.

When the army in the evening moved forwards, and the French so judiciously posted their cavalry, was it possible to have executed the investment? Would the position, so well chosen, in which the eight hundred cavalry with their cannon formed, have rendered any movement across the canal dangerous? Certainly the French cavalry, acting with the greatest advantages, had been beaten by infantry on the 8th, 13th, and 21st; but was the surprising effect of desperate emergency to justify a general's despising his enemy?

On the other hand there are officers who assert (certainly on presumptuous premises), that the French, from the choice of their position in the morning, shewed their inclination to surrender, if this could be done with any tolerable pretence of justification; that the Turks and British were numerous enough to have assaulted or invested the place, and that as for the cavalry, former successes justified the inference that their attacks were not to be dreaded; that the general movement in the evening was useless, if such was not the object; and, in short, that Rahmanieh might have been the theatre of as much brilliant success as the isthmus of Aboukir.

The questions may be resolved into two.

Ought General Hutchinson to have attacked the entrenched position of Rhamanieh, defended by 4000 infantry, 800 cavalry, 33 field pieces, and 17 pieces of position, without waiting for Colonel Stuart's co-operation by the erection of batteries in the Delta? or was he enabled to have invested the camp, and maintained the blockade during the night, after the necessary extension of his line three miles, with the force he had under his command?

The

The French unfortunately combine with their opinions so much national vanity, that from them an honest judgment can with difficulty be obtained; they however unanimously ridicule the idea of an investment or attack; and a French general of character has declared, that on the contrary, he proposed attacking the Turks and British when the interval between them was first observed.

General Regnier, who has said every thing he could against the English, never accuses them for their conduct on this day; he is indeed wrong in describing a corps as passing by Damanhour, and turning the canal, since although the movement would have been judicious, the force of the army did not admit of the necessary detachment; he is equally inaccurate in asserting, that General Hutchinson prevented a movement of General Doyle's in support of the Turks.

Others pretend as an additional reason for the attack or investment, that the French troops began to evacuate the position during the day. The account of the French themselves afterwards confuted this report, and therefore those troops which were seen passing up the Nile, could only be detachments occupying villages and other posts, to secure the retreat.

But whatever difference might exist on this subject, the possession of Rhamanieh was in itself most important, acquired also with a facility beyond the most sanguine hope. The armies of Generals Menou and Belliard were now divided by a vast extent of desert, combined offensive operations rendered impossible, the command of the Nile secured, and a communication with the whole interior of Egypt established.

Considerable, however, as were these advantages, much remained to be done. The French had retired, if repulsed, not weakened; their concentrated force from Cairo might always advance; they had lost a position, yet still possessed the capital and

and principal fortress of the country. Great successes had been gained certainly, but the fate of the campaign was by no means fixed.

On General Hutchinson's judgment was to depend its issue. Should he pursue to Cairo, or return to Alexandria, was the anxious alternative. On the one hand, he had to consider, what would be the probable consequences of exposing the Turks under the Grand Vizir to the attacks of the French, then not confined in their operations by any fear of the advance of the English? Whether the Mamelukes, who had as yet not openly avowed their alliance, would be friendly or hostile, if he did not move to their assistance, as Morad Bey had declared was necessary? Whether the Indian army would not be subjected to disaster, if he tamely allowed the French to oppose them with their whole force? Whether the junction with the Grand Vizir, the Mamelukes, and his army, did not ensure success at Grand Cairo? If, on the contrary, General Hutchinson returned to Alexandria, could he besiege the place? Had he men enough to defend the Nile, the entrenched camp before Alexandria, and to admit of his detaching a corps to the westward, which was deemed absolutely necessary for the siege, and which corps would have not only to resist the sortie of the garrison, but any attack which General Belliard, with his army, might make from the side of the Desert?

On the other hand it was maintained, that the march to Cairo ensured ruin, since there were no magazines formed; that the army must live on salt provisions, as fresh meat could not be ensured, and the state of the Boccage rendered that supply even precarious; that the diseases of plague, dysentery, and blindness, the heat of the climate, the fatigue to be undergone, the want of shoes, &c. must soon reduce the troops, and even if any number did arrive at Cairo, they would be incapacitated to fight the enemy, or begin the siege of what was thought a strong

fortress,

fortress, the citadel; finally, the conquest of Cairo was not decisive; for so long as the French retained Alexandria, so long were the English in fact not masters of Egypt, whereas if Alexandria was taken, Cairo must be glad to capitulate.

These objections distracted for some time the Commander in Chief's mind; he was aware of the truth of the last argument, but could not himself discover, or had he pointed out to him the means of attacking Alexandria, while General Belliard's army remained in force.

He dreaded the difficulties which were to be surmounted by the troops under his command, but at last he decided that the movement was indispensible. "My natural habits and present state of health would persuade me not to attempt a march where such exertion must be necessary, and in which, probably, I shall fall a sacrifice to the climate; but my duty to my king, country, and the gallant men who have been employed in this expedition, determine me to undertake it. If I succeed, great will be my satisfaction to find that my capacity did not betray their interests: if I fail, the consciousness of integrity, and the most ardent devotion for their glory and welfare, will support me in retirement." Such was the language which accompanied this decision; and even those who disagree with his opinion, must applaud his zeal.

The opposition to the measure was considerable; but General Hutchinson, notwithstanding, continued firm to his decision, shewing that perseverance, where he thought himself right, was a quality he amply possessed.

The entrenched camp of Rhamanieh was given up to the Turks, who left a garrison of about three hundred men in the fort, the dgerms taken were divided amongst them and the English, which proved a vast benefit, since they enabled, in two or three days, the quarter master general to convey the men's knapsacks by water, and facilitated the conveyance of the stores.

Hitherto

Hitherto the troops had carried every thing themselves, nor had the officers any more baggage than what was placed on their own backs. This of course was not much on a march, where the thermometer was never less than 95. A shirt pulled off, and dried in the sun, under this necessity, became a real luxury.

On the morning of the 11th of May the army advanced, passing through a fine corn country already ripe. The Turks were guilty of excesses, which the Caia Bey attempting to restrain, he was hooted at, and obliged to desist. The English officers, however, preserved some authority over them, and by their exertions checked the disorders; but they had already done the great mischief, rifling the pest-houses, whose wretched tenants were abandoned to die. The people of the villages with gratitude crowded around their deliverers; they beheld with wonder the British columns follow in regular order the Ottoman troops, and preserve the strictest discipline, since they had, by fatal experience from Mahometans and Christians, expected a very different conduct.

The British soldiers only required water, frequently even rewarding the trembling natives who brought it, and whose only prayer but feeble hope had been to escape ill usage.

All language is insufficient to give a just idea of the misery of an Egyptian village; but those who have been in Ireland may best suppose the degree, when an Irish hut is described as a palace, in comparison to an Arab's stye, for it can be called by no other name.

Each habitation is built of mud, even the roof, and resembles in shape an oven: within is only one apartment, generally of about ten feet square. The door does not admit of a man's entering upright; but as the bottom is dug out about two feet, when in the room, an erect posture is possible. A mat, some large cans to hold water, which it is the constant occupation of

the women to fetch, an Alkaras or drinking pitcher, made of fine porous flag, found best in Upper Egypt, near Cunie, and in which the water is kept very cool, a rice pan, and coffee-pot, are all the ornaments and utensils. Here then a whole family eat and sleep, without any consideration of decency or cleanliness, being in regard to the latter worse even than the beasts of the field, who naturally respect their own tenements. It was scarcely possible to witness this disgusting scene, to behold men, women, and children so wretched, so hideous, and so abject, without reflections not very conforming to doctrines, which for the happiness of the world should be inculcated; and the beautiful reasoning of the philosopher and poet was scarce sufficient to check the presumptuous discontent:

> Respecting man, whatever wrong we call,
> May, must be right, as relative to all.
> When the proud steed shall know, why man restrains
> His fiery course, or drives him o'er the plains:
> When the dull ox, why now he breaks the clod,
> Is now a victim, and now Egypt's God:
> Then shall man's pride and dulness comprehend
> His actions, passions, being, use, and end.
> Why doing, suff'ring, check'd, impell'd, and why
> This hour a slave, the next a deity.

All the villages have high mud walls, flanked with little towers of the same material, to protect them from the Bedouin Arabs. At night a constant guard is mounted, and the faithful dog, who in Egypt is treated with such barbarity, protects the thankless master's property; for the magazines of corn are formed on the outside of the walls, otherwise they would be too extended for the inhabitants to defend. The property of each village is deposited in one place, every individual owner heaping up his own rick, and keeping it distinct from his neighbours,

by preserving a path round. Thus the depôt resembles a corn field in England, only more compressed, previous to its produce being carried into the barns: but the interior regulations of these little independent states, and general system of government in the country, are beyond the limits of this work; nor could they be so well described as General Regnier has succeeded in doing, who has exemplified these details in a very instructive and able manner, since his knowledge and talents were not, as in his Military History, fettered with prejudice. A perusal of his work is well worth the attention of every man to whom legislation is interesting.

The army halted on the banks of the Nile, at Shibraghite, about twelve miles distant from Rhamanieh, and Colonel Stuart took up a position at Mehallet Daout. A Sirocco wind had raged the whole day, and inflaming the atmosphere, parched the troops almost to suffocation. Major Montresor was sent from hence to the Grand Vizir's army, which it was understood had arrived at Belbeis, and with discretionary instructions to proceed on to Suez, where Admiral Blanket at last had been able to beat up to, with one hundred and fifty men of the 86th, not the Indian army, as General Regnier states.

The army marched again the next morning to Kaffa Haudeig, passing over the ground where the Mamelukes experienced their first defeat. The Sirocco wind still continuing, the dgerms and gun-boats could not get up to the army, and therefore General Hutchinson halted on the 13th; Colonel Stuart continued also in his position at the canal of Ferastal.

In the evening Major Wilson was sent with dispatches to the Grand Vizir, to represent that from the extraordinary march of the French, it was probable they intended to attack his Highness, and to intreat him not to risque an action, which might

 com-

compromise success, already obtained, and which the delay of a few days would ensure from mutual co-operation. He arrived there on the 15th, and found the Turkish camp already in movement, from an account just brought of the French having in force advanced from Cairo. A conference was instantly held, at which were present the Grand Vizir, the Reis Effendi, Colonel Hollowell, Major Wilson, and Captain Hope. His Highness having been acquainted with the dispatches, and heard the reasons urged to strengthen their object, paused a few minutes, and then declared, " that the advice could not be followed, since his army only the day before had shewed strong symptoms of discontent, because they had not been allowed to advance to Cairo: that such a retreat would be utter ruin, for his troops would disband in despondency and disgust: that if the French amounted only in number to the most authentic report of their force, a retrograde movement would be disgraceful to the Ottoman arms, and the co-operation of such feeble allies afterwards could offer no advantage to the English General: that if at last a retreat was compelled by the superiority of the enemy, the disaster could not be aggravated by the delay, since the French dare not pursue far." No persuasion could induce him to strike a tent, or make the smallest preparation for the probable event. He objected that such precautions would create alarm, and the value of his equipage did not counterbalance such an unfavourable prepossession. His resolution was taken, and his reasoning not to be resisted.

As accounts now came that the French had absolutely advanced beyond Elhanka, Tahir Pacha was sent with a considerable corps of cavalry to keep them in check, and harass them during the night; and another corps was also detached into the Desert to watch their movements, and attack them if they

they attempted to pass by that route. Major Wilson then went back with the Grand Vizir's determination, and arrived in the British camp in the night of the 16th at Algam.

The army had moved forwards on the 14th to Benoufar, and Colonel Stuart posted his corps between Shabour and Kafr Laheisse. On their march they had fallen in with a valuable convoy, which had come from Cairo down the canal of Menouf, by which route they missed General Lagrange's retreating army, and knew nothing of the capture of Rhamanieh.

For two days the Arabs had followed, and kept firing on the French, who with musquetry and some swivels protected themselves. It was this cannonade which gave the first notice to the British and Turks of their approach, and who pressed forwards to ascertain the cause, whilst the army on the left bank for some time attributed it to an attack made on Colonel Stuart's column.

The French, to the number of one hundred and fifty men, seeing the Turks, landed from the boats, and threw themselves into a date wood on the left bank; but the Turks of Colonel Stuart's army obliged by musquetry the Arabs in the boats to bring them over to their side, when they began pillaging them, whilst those of the Captain Pacha's advanced guards shortly afterwards surrounded the wood, and fired into it.

The French made a desperate resistance, until they saw some English light dragoons, who under Lieutenant Diggins formed the advanced guard to the English army, approaching, when the officer who commanded the French, and who was wounded, came forwards, and said he would surrender, if the English would assure them of protection, which being pledged, they gave themselves up; but some Turks still fired at them whilst marching away. Several of the French before had been killed or

wounded;

wounded; the Turks had also some wounded, amongst which was the commandant of cavalry, a very accomplished man and zealous soldier, who had come with the Captain Pacha, and commanded about a hundred horsemen.

The convoy was very valuable, and must have been, from the nature of its stores, a considerable loss to the enemy. On board were all kinds of clothing, wine, spirits, &c. several heavy guns intended for the defence of Alexandria, and about five thousand pounds in money. The Turks were irritated at so many prisoners having escaped their sabres, but they consoled themselves with the dollars, of which they contrived to get the greatest part.

Whilst the prisoners were waiting in the rear to be embarked for Rosetta, the Captain Pacha passed, and discovering two black girls, companions of the French soldiers, he desired the English officer to deliver them up to him. This Lieutenant Diggins refused; as being placed under his charge as prisoners, he could not dispose of them without an order from the British general. The Captain Pacha was very much irritated, but at length obtained an order to receive them, since the French did not choose to take them to France. They probably were strangled, as connexion with Europeans was always a crime, and with Frenchmen now one of unpardonable heinousness.

On the morning of the 15th the army marched, and encamped between Zowaff and Zaout el Bahar. Colonel Stuart moved to Lacra.

On the 16th the army marched to Algam; Colonel Stuart to Nadin. In front of Algam were the ruins of a village, sacked and destroyed by the French, the inhabitants of it having attacked and killed General Denoyer when passing down the Nile; an hostility which no system of terror could, however, influence the Arabs to discontinue.

On

On the 17th some Arabs came in to report, that a considerable body of the French were advancing to the spot where the boats of the Captain Pacha were lying, about a league in the rear of the English head quarters, not having been able, on account of the little wind the day before, to beat up farther, and the Captain Pacha sent courier after courier with the same intelligence. The commandant of the French convoy, who had encamped the same night within four miles of the Captain Pacha, as soon as he perceived the boats, suspected the army must be near, and retired into the Desert.

General Doyle, who had zealously urged and volunteered to pursue the convoy, was ordered to take out the 12th and a detachment of the 26th dragoons, amounting to 250 men, two field pieces, and his brigade of infantry was directed to follow him, whilst General Craddock, with a brigade, moved along the banks of the Nile.

Colonel Abercromby and Major Wilson galloped on to find the enemy's column, which was not then perceptible, attended only by the wild Arabs, who flocked from all parts of the Desert.

When they had gone about seven miles, they came up with the convoy, and reconnoitring it attempted to make the Arabs attack their front and right flank, whilst Captain Sutton of the 58th, who then also arrived, used his utmost exertions to effect the same service; but the French tirailleurs kept them completely at a distance. At length Major Wilson proposed to Colonel Abercromby that he might be allowed to offer the commandant of the convoy a capitulation, since the stratagem might succeed, and at all events the delay of the negociation would give time for the arrival of the infantry. Colonel Abercromby consenting, he rode up with a white handkerchief on his sword, and approaching within twenty yards, demanded to speak with the commandant. Colonel Cavalier came forwards,

and asked him what he required. He answered, that "he was sent by the Commander in Chief to offer, before circumstances might render his submission useless, terms for the surrender of his convoy, which were, that the troops should lay down their arms, and be sent directly to France." Colonel Cavalier violently cried out to him to retire instantly, for he scarcely knew whether he ought not to order his people to fire. Major Wilson answered, that it was the humanity of the general which induced him to offer these terms, and reminded Colonel Cavalier of the responsibility which now attached to him, and the sacrifice he was about to make. To this Colonel Cavalier seemed to pay no attention, and Major Wilson was proceeding towards General Doyle, who had formed the cavalry within musquet shot, when an aid de camp from the French galloped after Major Wilson, and required him to return to Colonel Cavalier, who asked for the proposed conditions to be repeated, and then requested that he would wait the event of a consultation with his officers. An evident sensation of joy was perceptible in the troops, and their actions betrayed their inclinations; but the manner in which they were drawn up, presented a formidable resistance: a corps of infantry formed the front and rear line, whilst three divisions of the dromedary corps and heavy dragoons *en echellon* protected the flanks; in front of the right was a piece of cannon, and in the centre of the square were the baggage camels. Colonel Cavalier suddenly came back, and said, "that it was the definitive resolve of his officers that they could only agree to the surrender of their camels and horses, but that the troops must be sent into Cairo free." Major Wilson replied, that he lamented this determination, which he must consider as a positive refusal, since plunder was not the object of the English General, but the capture or destruction of this corps of troops, therefore such terms would be an insult to offer him. The Arabs began now to press on, and the uneasiness of the column

became

became more and more apparent. At last Colonel Cavalier declared, "that if he might lay down his arms at head quarters, instead of in the Desert before the Bedouins; if the officers might retain their private property, and the men be sent directly to France, and on arriving there be no longer considered as prisoners of war; if an officer might be sent to Cairo for the security of their baggage left in depôt there, and Major Wilson remain as a hostage for their safe conduct to the British camp, he would agree to such terms." As these conditions all conformed with the instructions of General Hutchinson from government, and such had been offered to General Menou, Major Wilson accepted them, and General Hutchinson arriving, in person, ratified them. The Arabs, some of whom had followed from the moment the convoy left Alexandria, were thunderstruck at seeing the enemy thus quietly submit, and the event will remain recorded in their tribes for generations.

The convoy marched, escorted by the dragoons, and latterly by the infantry column, which it picked up about a league nearer Algam, and proceeded to a field close to head quarters, where the French troops grounded their arms. They were composed of five hundred and sixty men, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, including one hundred and twenty of the dromedary corps, which were the picked men of the army, and who excited universal admiration as well as surprise; one four pounder, five hundred and fifty camels, with their Arab drivers, became the property of the English.

This was the first time Europeans in the Desert of Lybia, since the arrival of the French, experienced protection from its savage inhabitants; but in the degree they abhorred the French, in so much did the English obtain their friendship. Many of the infantry, overpowered by the heat and march, would have perished but for their assistance; and no instance occurred

curred where they abused the rights of humanity, on the contrary, they conducted in the stragglers the next day, after having afforded every relief in their power.

The surrender of this convoy was not only important from the number and quality of the troops taken, but as furnishing the army with such a quantity of camels as to relieve the men from much of their severe duties, and ensure a more certain supply of water.

An enquiry into the causes which operated to produce this surrender, is delicate, and a partial opinion better not given; for all the circumstances which induced Colonel Cavalier to the capitulation cannot be known, nor can he be supposed to have been acquainted with the state of the force moving against him.

The British dragoons in fact were without water or a feed of corn; there were only one hundred and fifty of them, and thus unprovided, to have continued the pursuit half an hour longer, would have been almost insanity. General Doyle, had he overtaken the convoy, would certainly have attacked; but notwithstanding the gallant efforts he would have made, still the odds were so fearful that no one could presume on his success. The artillery horses were wearied, and the guns could not have proceeded. The column of infantry was not within three miles at the time of the surrender, and never could have come up if the convoy had persevered. The Desert ensured, therefore, a safe retreat, particularly if the infantry had been mounted on the camels; they might at any time have reached the cultivated country, or even continued on as far as the Pyramids, before they attempted to enter; they had some provisions, and could not want water, the wells at the lake of Natron, where there are Coptic monasteries, would have yielded a sufficiency; but then the situation of men is to be considered, who in the midst of a burning

burning desert were offered a rescue from a wretched country they so long had suffered in, and a return to their native land and families. Human nature was scarcely proof against such temptations, and such weaknesses must be considered with humanity; nor could Colonel Cavalier alone resist the general inclination. The French troops, after the battle of the 21st, were not very well affected, or in a state of necessary subordination: Colonel Cavalier was even heard to request the patience of his people until the terms could be arranged with honour to them; and all the officers afterwards avowed, that when "France" was mentioned by Major Wilson, that word electrified the soldiers, and the sentiments connected with it were not to be repressed.

General Regnier, as usual, inaccurate, represents this convoy as composed of four hundred and fifty men, and attacked by three thousand, still preserving so bold a front as to stipulate for the preservation of its arms to France.

In the evening the French embarked for Rosetta, the officers having received for a hundred camels, which were their own private property, three hundred pounds.

Isaac Bey in the evening came from the Captain Pacha to the general with the important intelligence that the Grand Vizir had defeated the French, and that the garrison of Fort Lesbè, near Damietta, which had escaped to Bourlos, had also evacuated that fort; the particulars of the Grand Vizir's success were, however, not known till the arrival next day of Major Montresor, who had been present at the affair. It appeared that the French, who had attempted to surprise the Turkish camp, had found themselves, on the contrary, attacked in the morning of the 16th by the corps under the command of Tahir Pacha and Mahommed Pacha, who had moved on to his support. The French took post in a wood of date trees, where for three hours they maintained a sharp fire; but on the Grand Vizir's arriving with

the main body, General Belliard, for fear of being surrounded, was obliged to move into the plain, and on account of the number of Turkish horsemen concentrate his force, forming two hollow squares of infantry on the wings, with a column of cavalry in the centre. Thus he attempted to advance; but wherever he appeared, the Turks opened out, and assembled again on his flanks; and at length, a body of their cavalry striking into the Desert, General Belliard was alarmed lest that detachment might be sent to push into Cairo, a manœuvre which the year before, at the battle of Heliopolis, had succeeded so well; he therefore was compelled to abandon his object, and retreat with precipitation, yet preserving order; but had five hundred Europeans been amongst the pursuers, the French, wearied, dispirited, and suffering with extreme drought, must inevitably have perished. Colonel Holloway and the officers with him did all they could to encourage the Turks, but could not effect all they wished.* General Regnier asserts, that the French cavalry charged and took two pieces of cannon, which is an untruth; and in vain does he attempt to gloss over the affair, which is the most disgraceful of any in the campaign, by calling it a *reconnoissance*; a term he thought might be applied even to the battle of the 21st of March. With the same accuracy which distinguishes his other observations, he augments the Vizir's army with five hundred English artillery, thus clothing twenty-nine men with five hundred buckram jackets. But his account of the French force is more satisfactory; he states this to have been 4600 infantry, 900 cavalry, and 24 pieces of cannon. Their loss was about three hundred killed and wounded; the Turks had one hundred and fifty, which dif-

* Colonel Holloway and all the British officers present very much distinguished themselves by their exertions, and the Vizir was sensible of their merit. Lord Elgin in his dispatch renders them justice. See Appendix.

ference

ference is to be accounted for from the different formation of the two armies.

The affair had lasted seven hours; but although there was much firing, still the loss as stated was inconsiderable; yet it is not by the number of killed and wounded the importance of this battle is to be estimated, but inasmuch as it discomfited the projects of the French, rendered the surprising efforts of their march an useless exertion, elevated the spirit of the Turks, and inspired confidence amongst their friends in Cairo and the country.

The inhabitants saw the French return, baffled and dejected; they beheld the Ottomans pursuing, and their crescent triumphant as far as Heliopolis, where the Grand Vizir, who had conducted himself during the action with great resolution, passed the night in the full pride of victory. Two years had not elapsed, since, on the same ground, he had been defeated, and a fugitive; and now he heard himself stiled a conqueror, a title doubly dear, as the English, who had anticipated his disgrace, must acknowledge his triumph, and the Captain Pacha was outrivalled in glory. Such are the vicissitudes of war, so constantly revolving is the wheel of fortune.

The gain of the battle of Elhanka relieved General Hutchinson from his anxiety, and secured a freedom of operations; but to prevent the possibility of a reverse, he directed Colonel Stuart to place himself under the orders of the Vizir, who had approached the English by moving from his position near Cairo to Chebrissa on the Nile. At the same time patroles were sent out towards Cairo, and Major Birch, with Captain Leighton, officers of the quarter master general's department, went with them to reconnoitre the country.

Colonel Stuart had on the 18th marched to Menouf, where the Arnauts quitted his command, and returned to the Captain Pacha's

Pacha's army, the 30th replacing them, with the detachment of 11th dragoons, not exceeding fifty men, but whom General Regnier increases to six hundred.

Menouf is a wretched place, and has a fort of a miserable construction, which was evacuated; the canal called by this name is a noble work, appearing a large river, and is always full of water, as the Nile flows into it with a fall of ten feet.

On the 21st Colonel Stuart marched to Beauchamp; and on the 23d General Hutchinson, being desirous to hold a conference with the Grand Vizir, that the future plan of operations might be arranged, left the camp with the Captain Pacha, and went in his barge by the canal of Menouf.

This day will ever be remarkable to the Egyptian army. a Sirocco wind darkened with a burning mist the atmosphere; the thermometer was at 120 in the shade;* the ground was heated like the floor of a furnace; every thing that was metallic, such as arms, buttons, knives, &c. became burning hot; the poultry, exposed to the air, and several horses and camels, died; respiration was difficult, and the lungs were parched with the fiery particles. Had the heat continued forty-eight hours, the effects would have been dreadful; but happily, as night drew on, the wind cooled, and at last changed to the north-west.

General Hutchinson did not arrive till the next morning, when he was received with great state on his landing, and introduced to the Grand Vizir, who received him with every token of respect and regard.

The Captain Pacha was seated on the same sopha with the Grand Vizir, who had raised him up with much graciousness as he offered to kneel and kiss his garment.

* At Belbeis the thermometer was at 130, on the western side of the Nile 120, at Alexandria 105.

The

The Grand Vizir is an old man, with a very expressive and engaging countenance, but having only one eye, the other being put out in throwing the dgiredde;* a silvered beard of extraordinary length and beauty, a remarkable cleanliness in person, gave him a majestic and pleasing appearance, whilst the affability and particular elegance of his manners operated irresistibly in his favour; nor was this impression ever diminished by a more intimate knowledge of his character; brave, loyal, and humane; if not endowed with the most splendid talents, he ornamented by his virtues the high dignity he was invested with. The interview was but short, as he presumed, with some reason, that the general was oppressed with the crowd.

The Grand Vizir, reinforced by some troops from Dgezzar Pacha, who submitted again to the Porte, had on the 25th of February advanced twelve miles to Gabria, where, in consequence of the want of camels, sickness, &c. he remained until the 12th of March, when he proceeded, and on the 15th arrived at Gaza, where he halted until the 22d, since the plague raged so violently at El Arish as to reduce a garrison of four thousand men to fifteen hundred in less than a month. The Vizir's army was here formed into three divisions, one being placed under Tahir Pacha, the other under Mahommed Pacha, and himself commanding the third. The united force was about sixteen thousand men.† On the 22d, Tahir Pacha, who had been sent forwards with three thousand men and five guns, arrived at El Arish, and on the 28th the Grand Vizir. On his march he received accounts of the landing of the British in Egypt,

* When the Vizir lost his eye, he sent the man who had committed the accident, a purse of money, and begged him, for fear that he might be punished, to quit Turkey. An anecdote very honourable to himself, if not to the jurisprudence of his country.

† Colonel Holloway, who had succeeded General Kœhler after his death in December, 1800, had the disposition of the army, being much in the Vizir's confidence.

and

and of the action of the 21st, which intelligence was brought to him by Major Missett, and announced to the Ottoman army by a discharge of twenty-one guns. On the 2d of April Tahir Pacha advanced, on the 5th Mahommed Pacha, and on the 20th the Vizir, who arrived at Catich in four days, during which march no water was to be obtained in that part of the Desert, which extends from El Arish to that post.

From thence he sent to summon Fort Lesbè at Damietta, which summons being refused, he afterwards, on the 6th of May, detached Ibrahim Pacha, of Aleppo, with two thousand five hundred men (not six thousand, as General Regnier represents), and five pieces of cannon, to attack Damietta. On the 24th of April he moved to Salahieh, where he arrived on the 27th, which place the French had evacuated on the 9th, without destroying the works, as General Regnier states, but, even on the contrary, leaving all the artillery behind.* In this march is a particular pass, called *Le Pont des Romains*, the Romans having erected the bridge here, which was necessary to pass some very swampy ground, formerly the bed of a small branch of the Nile. The French had attempted to blow it up, but the ruins made a causeway. On the 30th of April the Vizir sent to summon Cairo, and with the view of reconnoitring its defences, Major Hope of the British artillery, serving with his army, was requested also to accompany the Turks. He was not admitted into the town, but was civilly treated, dining with the French officer at the outward guard. In a few hours they were dismissed with General Belliard's answer, which of course was a refusal to the Grand Vizir's pretensions. On the 7th of May the Vizir advanced to Cozin, eighteen miles from Salahieh, where learning,

* Only some of the interior works were destroyed, and some guns thrown down a well; others were concealed under sand, but the whole were immediately mounted. Salahieh is a regular work, built by the French, and is a place of strength.

that

that some discontents had manifested themselves amongst the troops at Belbeis, under Mahommed Pacha, he proceeded there the following morning, accompanied by the Reis Effendi, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway, Major Hope, and a few attendants, when his presence immediately restored order and tranquility.

The camp at Belbeis had been entrenched, and a redoubt constructed under the direction of Captain Lacy, of the Royal Engineers.

On the 11th of May that part of the Ottoman army and of the military mission left at Cozin, joined the Grand Vizir at Belbeis. This army, now concentrated, had passed over a space of two hundred and fifty miles, of which one hundred and seventy were Desert.

On the 12th of May the Vizir received the intelligence of the capture of Rhamanieh, and of the forced march which the French were making to Cairo.

On the morning of the 25th Ibrahim Bey came to General Hutchinson, and solicited a private conference, in which, with tears, he described himself as a poor old man, depending on the English solely for protection. This celebrated chief, the rival of Morad, is a short stout man, of a fair complexion, with a quick sparkling eye, but his character does not correspond with this appearance of animation. Possessed of abilities, he wants that energy which is so necessary to support such a situation as he aspired to, and the want of which has so often deprived him of his government, and, in his retreat across the Desert, rendered fatally inactive his talents and courage.*

* Bonaparte acknowledges that his horses were so jaded in the pursuit, that had Ibrahim Bey, recovering from his panic, only appeared to make a stand, the consequences might have been very fatal to him, and that he was totally unequal to a contest.

The Grand Vizir's army presented a very different appearance to the Turks under the Captain Pacha. Here were no regularity, no trace of discipline; each corps encamped confusedly around its chieftain; horses and camels crowded all the intervals; tumbrils and cannon lay mixed amongst them, and the whole formed a most disgusting chaos, whilst the dirt and filth of the camp certainly were amply sufficient to generate the plague, and every pestilential disease.*

In the evening, when the gale of wind blew up the fine particles of soil, the atmosphere was intolerable, and words fail to give a just description of the wretchedness.

The troops were composed of all nations, and such a rabble was never beheld. There is good ground for asserting that near ten thousand Arabs, after the battle of Elhanka, joined the Grand Vizir, in hopes of the pillage of Cairo. The number of horses was prodigious, as each Turkish soldier provided himself with one *en route*, and the wretched country was desolated with barbarous violence to afford them forage. The Mamelukes, however, to the number of five hundred and sixty, were encamped in a very superior manner; their lines were kept clear, and regularity was visible throughout; their dress was very rich, their manners accomplished, and the general appearance corresponding with expectation. General Hutchinson here received the intelligence that the enemy who had retired from the Fort Lesbè, to the number of five hundred men, after effecting their junction with the two hundred at Bourlos, embarked with their artillery in five small vessels, four of which were taken, and carried into Aboukir, and that the fifth was pro-

* Each tent had a little temple of C——— within a yard of it, and which was formed by a piece of canvas; but as no opening was made in the earth, they were abominable from every reason, yet in this state they were always packed on the camels.

bably

bably captured, as she was pursued by a Turkish frigate; but General Regnier states that two escaped, "and Brutus is an honourable man." It is extraordinary that this force, after the retreat of General Lagrange, should continue on the coast, since its defence longer was useless, and the possibility of the retreat of the corps daily became more precarious. The apparent duty of the commander was to attempt a passage through the Delta, or to cross the Nile below Rosetta. There was a probability of success, and the strength of the detachment always insured a capitulation; but General Regnier excuses this by saying that the messenger sent with the order for the retreat never arrived. It is equally singular that the Turks did not prevent the sortie of the garrison of Fort Lesbè, or discover the movement at the time. Their batteries against the fort were to have been opened on the 14th, in the night of which the French retreated, but ignorant of the precise locality, an opinion can only be formed from supposition.

In Damietta were found many dgerms, and in the forts a quantity of artillery and ammunition.

The next day presented a scene of extraordinary interest and amusement to an European. The Grand Vizir gave a tournament at the distance of about two miles from the camp: he was seated under a canopy, with the Captain Pacha, the Reis Effendi, Mahommed Pacha, and four English officers, Mr. Hutchinson, Colonel Cole, Major Wilson, and Captain Proby; Ibrahim Bey and the great officers of state standing. The cavalry, to the number of about three hundred, were drawn out, to form three sides of a square. The most expert horsemen then darted out of the ranks successively, throwing the dgiredde, whilst from the severity of the bit and brutal use of their shovel stirrup spurs, the blood streamed profusely from the mouths and

 sides

sides of their horses. When this exercise had lasted about two hours, the Grand Vizir, Captain Pacha, &c. mounted their horses, and moved to review the main army, the attendants shouting the whole way, " *Alla achbar, Alla achbar,* Praise be to God ;" but before the cavalcade arrived at the camp, the Grand Vizir seized a dgiredde, and, manœuvring his horse with dexterity, threw it at the Reis Effendi. The contest now became general amongst the most exalted personages; Ibrahim Bey rode with much grace; the Reis Effendi and Mahommed Pacha entered the lists, and the Captain Pacha,* with a commanding dignity and admirable skill, manœuvred in the circle: but Solyman Aga, the pride of the Mamelukes, for the beauty of his countenance, the elegance of his manners, his excellence in all the martial exercises, rushing forward with a long spear in his hand, excelled beyond competition, and extorted universal admiration. Yet with the ability of the most refined statesman, he seemed to dread his pre-eminence, and, with the cunning of the most artful courtier, gratified the vanity of the Vizir.†

In the midst of this singular and already ludicrous scene, rode in a fool, mounted on a wretched horse, himself perfectly

* The Captain Pacha was much distressed to think that the English might be ridiculing; and when the fool appeared, he could not help expressing how shocked he was, but excused the whole from the custom of his country.

† The attendants when hit pretended to be hurt, and from repeated blows affected to be unhorsed; but when on the ground, they looked at the British officers, lolling out their tongues as a sign of the quiz they were playing. The dgiredde is a stick which is held behind the thigh until the horſe is checked up ſuddenly from full speed, when at the ſame moment it is darted against the adversary; but it requires a strong arm to give it force, and ſome dexterity to make it strike with the point. The bit is the most severe which can be made, and a horse is never thrown on his haunches suddenly without the blood flowing from his mouth; the consequence is, that their mouths are ſo hardened, that in a less severe bit they hang dead upon the hand. The stirrups are exactly similar to the pan of a shovel, the end of which is very sharp, and kept constantly pressing against the horse in the gallop, so that his flanks are not pricked, but absolutely scored.

naked, with a bell round his neck, and straws in his hand: these, as javelins, he directed against the Vizir, and against him alone, as the only object worthy his arms. Nor did this strange scene produce any sensation among the Turks; he was allowed to continue unmolested his attacks, and even from the Vizir himself received a handful of sequins.*

At length the Grand Vizir arrived at his camp, and with seeming pride and approbation, rode along the wretched line drawn out to receive him, for he had not then seen better troops, whilst the Captain Pacha suffered much mortification.

In the evening an Arnaut, who had been guilty of illtreating a woman, an offence of the highest nature amongst Mahometans, was shot. There was no public ceremony at this execution; a small guard conducted him to a road immediately on the left of the camp, and one of them, placing a pistol at the right side of his body, fired, when the man fell dead. He was left three days in the same place, exposed to public view.

General Hutchinson having finally decided on his plans, and obtained a written declaration from the Grand Vizir that unless his army was allowed to proceed immediately to Cairo, he was assured the troops would disband, left the camp on the 27th with the Captain Pacha, and with much pleasure, for he could not be very comfortable amidst this scene of disorder, and where, as is usual in a Turkish camp, the musket balls were continually whizzing; but notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Vizir, and the custom even of the English officers attached to

* In Egypt a fool is worshipped as a saint, and at Cairo they have many particular privileges, but the most singular is the superstition which favours them so as to make their children considered the peculiar favourites of heaven; therefore in the public streets the most virtuous women have no scruples to them, and passengers, instead of disturbing, pray over their union. A woman so with child is highly esteemed amongst her own sex; there is therefore some excuse for *playing the fool* in that country.

the mission,* he always rode out during his stay unaccompanied by any Janissary guard, which was heretofore deemed necessary to protect an European from insult, if not violence, but in the event this confidence much pleased the Turks themselves.

The extraordinary difficulties in obtaining the necessary supplies and stores, added to the certainty of the French fleet's being at sea, destined for Alexandria, a corvette of which had entered on the 19th into that port, and the continued opposition in the army to the movement, the ravages daily made by the dysentery and blindness, the absolute want of money, four months pay being due, rendered it extremely necessary for the Commander in Chief to have additional grounds besides his own opinion to justify his perseverance.

The Captain Pacha now engaged to supply the army with bread, for which purpose ovens were established at Menouf, and likewise agreed to provide a certain proportion of buffaloes, which he obtained from the inhabitants by requisition.†

On the 29th of May, in the evening, a Mameluke came from the Caia Bey, or general of Osman Bey, to announce his arrival with the advanced guard at Terrana. Major Wilson was directly sent to congratulate him, and assure him of protection. He found him to be an Æthiopian, of a dark copper colour, with a white stubby beard, extremely ugly, yet with a most penetrating look, very sensible, enquiring, crafty, and suspi-

* The British artillery, however, regularly had public prayers every Sunday in the midst of the Turkish camp; and during the whole time of their being attached to that army, were never molested or interrupted in the service.

† Buffalo meat is extremely coarse; it is an animal almost amphibious, for the whole day the buffaloes lie in the water, looking like great porpoises; the natives constantly also tie on their horns the clothes or articles they wish to carry across the Nile, jump on their backs, and use them as ferries.

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cious. Osman Bey of course selected an officer of the greatest intelligence, when he committed the lives and fortunes of himself and followers into his hands. An exact Syphax in person, cunning, and intrigue, he became greater from his attachment to his master.

He appointed four o'clock in the morning, and a village in front of their army as the place of rendezvous, from whence he was to proceed to the English general's tent, but anxiously stipulated that the Captain Pacha was not to know of the time of his coming: however, so great was his dread of being betrayed by the Turks, who accompanied Major Wilson, that instead of keeping his appointment, he at three o'clock marched, and, striking into the Desert, came by the rear of the camp, after a considerable detour, to the general's tent, where he was assured by General Hutchinson in person of his protection, and that the Captain Pacha should confirm those stipulations he had in the name of the Grand Signor already pledged.* From thence he went to the Captain Pacha, who received him with apparent pleasure and cordiality. In the evening General Hutchinson's brother, Captains Taylor and Proby, returned with him to the camp of Osman Bey.

On the 1st of June the army moved forward to Mishlei; Colonel Stuart's corps remained at Birchamps.

The great delay which had retarded the operations for such a time, it is by many believed might have been in some degree avoided; but as a Commander in Chief must conform his movement to that state of preparation, which the various departments of the army, essential for its maintenance and service, will allow of, the absolute occasion of the delay must be sought

* When he ſaw Major Wilson in the tent afterwards, he anxiously explained his motive for not keeping his appointment. In the late tumult at Alexandria in the boats he was killed, having defended himself with the utmost desperation, and before he fell being nearly hacked to pieces.

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for in the difficulties which presented themselves to render the efforts of the commissary unequal to the assurance of a certain supply, when the state of the boccage caused a scarcity in the magazines, the want of camels before the convoy was taken, and the deficiency of stores, &c. from the same reasons, and a wish for General Baird's co-operation, who was daily expected. But that no farther delays might impede the offensive operations, General Lawson of the artillery, and Captain Brice, who commanded the engineers, were sent back to Rosetta, in order to forward, with every exertion, the heavy artillery, &c. required for the siege of Cairo; and those exertions proved most beneficial to the service, as well as honourable to themselves.

The next evening Mr. Hutchinson, &c. returned from the Mameluke camp, then six miles distant, and spoke in the highest terms of their reception, the order, appearance, and manners, which elevate the Mamelukes so much above the Turks.

The next morning Osman Bey Tambourgi,* attended by seven others, came to visit the general, and were highly pleased with his frankness and unequivocal declaration of his sentiments with regard to them. They had been by arrangement, for fear of giving offence, previously with the Captain Pacha, who exerted himself to remove from their minds all apprehension and suspicion.

Osman Bey was a handsome lusty man, of fifty years of age, ornamented with no distinguishing insignia, except a beautiful diamond hilted dagger, which belonged to his master, benefactor, and predecessor, Morad. Under his command were eleven Beys; but their united efficient force, not including their numerous followers, did not amount to above twelve hun-

* Tambourgi, so called from having been a drummer. After Morad Bey's death, he assumed the name of Crebir, or chief.

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dred men.* These were all richly dressed, well mounted, appointed, and armed. Individually, without doubt, they are superior to any cavalry in the world; but collectively, British dragoons must, from their physical superiority of strength, weight, and velocity, overpower in a charge more than an equal number of them.

The Mamelukes generally are fine men, and seemed likely to continue so another generation, if judgment might be formed from the beautiful young Georgian boys in their possession. No air of sorrow appeared in any face, except in the countenances of some Frenchmen who had deserted or had been taken, and who were afraid of being exposed to the shame of returning amongst their comrades, after the abuse they had suffered, and therefore still continued in the service of their unnatural masters.† Still the sentiment of love for their native country was not to be subdued, and they miserably pined in their slavery.

The Beys were men of abilities. Mohammed Elfi, so called from Morad having paid 1100 dollars for him, which is an honourable distinction now attached to his name, and who has since fled into Upper Egypt, was particularly clever. Osman Bardici, afterwards severely wounded, was the most active, and Achmed Bey the most endowed with the knowledge of European politics, being an Italian by birth, and having been an hostage for the fealty of Morad Bey to the French.

General Hutchinson now saw that two great objects of his march were accomplished; an union with the Turkish army, and the junction of the Mamelukes, who from their influence secured the country, and left the French destitute of resource.

* In Upper Egypt had been left about eight hundred to take care of their farms.

† It must be understood, without exception, that the Mamelukes are all s———. Egyptians and Turks are also; but the former necessarily from their system must be, and when they become princes, they continue from inclination what in their early youth may be considered an involuntary act of submission; however, there is an anecdote of Osman Bey Bardici's resistance to Morad, which must exculpate him.

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Intelligence having also been received that Colonel Murray had landed at Cossir, with a few hundred men, and that he entertained the momentary expectation of the remainder of the army joining, the General was relieved from the fear of General Belliard's retiring into Upper Egypt, a movement which would have been most disastrous to the English, as pursuit there was almost impracticable, from the sickly state of the troops.

On the 4th of June the army marched, and took up a position in front and rear of Lochmas. Colonel Stuart the same day crossed the water from Birchamps, and halted on the banks of the Nile. The gun-boats had been sent through the canal of Menouf, as the Nile was too shallow to allow of their proceeding further in the Rosetta branch. Hitherto the Captain Pacha in his vessel, which, in comparison with the size of those used in the Nile might be called a frigate, had been towed by men through the mud, and forced over banks, which no ship of equal burthen had ever passed before. But this trait was consistent with the character of this extraordinary man, as it gave him opportunities to display his power and munificence.

The next day the army advanced to Verden, about ten miles, and Colonel Stuart moved to *Shubra Shaàbi*, where the Grand Vizir had taken a position, and who received the colonel with every mark of affection, and that distinction which his important and gallant services entitled him to expect.

The sickness of the troops now alarmingly increased, there being at this time one thousand who had returned to Rosetta, or were in two days afterwards in such a state as to render expedient the establishment of an hospital camp on the point of the Delta.

The English army marched again on the 7th, and encamped beyond El Gatta, where the Nile divided into two branches. The Mamelukes here first formed a part of the grand camp, and for the first time pitched tents with any regularity, which the

the general insisted should be done. On the 9th the army moved to Burtos, and the Vizir to Charlakan. On the 15th the English army advanced to Finesh, and the Vizir encamped in rear of Bassous.

On June the 15th General Hutchinson sent privately a French Mameluke, who had formerly been a merchant in Egypt, and was then in the service of Osman Bey Bardici, to General Belliard, with a letter, begging of him to consider the dreadful fate to which he exposed the inhabitants of Cairo, by holding out the place, and subjecting it to an assault by the Turks, and at the same time offering him a capitulation on the most honourable terms. The Mameluke was not allowed to enter the town, he was met by a French officer, who carried the letter to General Belliard, and then returned with a positive refusal to enter into any negociation.

On the 16th the army moved opposite to Shubra, and the British, under Colonel Stuart, advanced beyond the Turks to the canal in front of Shubra. The Vizir's army continued in the rear of Bassous. The Turks, under the Captain Pacha, had this day removed to the right, forming a line with the British, and the Mamelukes occupied the villages of Conlachnar, Bashteel, and Imbaba.* This arrangement did not please the Captain Pacha, who had always encamped with his troops on the banks of the Nile; but he was satisfied, when the necessity of the movement was explained to him. The good of the service was his great object, and to promote that his pride.

It being absolutely necessary (to insure an easy communication between the two armies) that a bridge of boats should be thrown across the Nile, the army had taken post here to cover its erection. No sooner were the tents pitched, and some Eng-

* Imbaba is the village in front of which Morad Bey was defeated by the French. This affair has been dignified, in order to impress a false consequence, with the name of the battle of the Pyramids, although Imbaba is distant from them seven miles.

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lish officers appeared near Imbaba, who had preceded to reconnoitre, than heavy guns were heard on the left of Cairo, which proved to be a *feu de joie*, as all the batteries in the citadel and entrenched camp successively fired. If the number of cannon awed, the vast extension of the line to be defended by the then estimated strength of the garrison counteracted the impression; and the opinion was universal, that if the object of the enemy was to inspire terror by the display of strength, the effect was diametrically opposite.

A variety of speculations were made on this singular celebration, as any unfortunate disaster, affecting the English before Alexandria, must have been known of course before the garrison of Cairo could have been acquainted with it; but in vain was the wildest guess at the cause of a *feu de joie*, which was ordered "for the capture of Ireland." Ridiculous as this story appears, it is sacredly true, and this conceit has been dignified amongst the French with the justifying term of a *ruse de guerre*.

In the evening intelligence arrived of Admiral Gantheaume's having anchored off Cape Dirne, and of his having put to sea again with unaccountable precipitation and voluntary loss of anchors. June the 14th an officer was sent with some Mamelukes to patrole to Giza, which he effected, reaching the tree within a quarter of a mile of Morad Bey's house, which formed the defence of the north front. On his return, he reported that the bridge of boats from Old Cairo to Giza might from thence be destroyed, but that the bridge seemed less covered by the town on the other side of Giza. He had wished to have ascertained this, but the Mamelukes refused to go round. About the same time Captains Murray and Lutchins of the 11th dragoons, passing through the Desert, reached the heights of Mokattan, advancing even as far as the old mosque, immediately above the

the citadel. The French attempted to cut them off, but did not succeed.

This patrole was very creditable to the party employed, and beneficial from the information it obtained.

In the evening a Maltese deserter came in, and reported that some French troops were going into Upper Egypt for provisions, and that the *feu de joie* was fired for the cause before mentioned, this news having been sent by General Menou, and brought by fifty of the corps of dromedaries, who had come by the Desert, and entered Cairo on the evening of the 12th.

June the 17th the Captain Pacha and General went as far as Dockee to reconnoitre. In the evening a serjeant major of French hussars deserted, and proved a very intelligent man. The prince of Fez also brought some papers, found on an Arab, who was killed in the pursuit, and who was going to Alexandria with a letter from General Belliard; in which he claims a considerable victory at Elhanka, as killing five hundred men, two Beys, and taking four pieces of cannon. Another letter represented that the *coups des batons* having been inflicted on the Sheiks of the villages, the contributions would quickly come in. This was written by a general who had commanded in the Delta, and who descanted on the advantages to be derived from this mode of collecting the income tax.

June the 19th orders were issued for the march across the Nile on the next morning; the bridge, composed of sixty dgerms, and about one hundred and eighty yards wide, being completed, some of the guns were even passed across, the general having been persuaded from some information that a direct attack on Cairo would hasten its fall rather sooner than by the previous reduction of Giza; but at eight o'clock in the evening counter orders were issued, as General Hutchinson and General Craddock's subsequent opinions coincided, that a total investment was necessary, and the possession of Giza was indispensable, consider-

considering that if the army crossed the Nile, and the gates of Giza were left open to the French, a sortie might be made, the garrison escape by the Desert over the plain, or his *tête du pont* attacked during the night, possibly carried, and thus the army be cut off altogether from the left bank; and the French serjeant major's information, whose abilities were very superior to his station, confirmed the general in his resolution.

This change of movement rendered the delay of a day necessary; the Grand Vizir was instantly sent to, and requested to counter-order also his march; but his army would not be disappointed. At day-break they struck their tents, and moved forward in the most tumultuous and disorderly manner to within cannon-shot of Cairo, when they thought proper again to pitch their tents.

By the great exertions of Captain Marley, their position at last became corrected, and even good; for he threw the first line on the canal, which runs between Elwoile and Elmini, in the rear of which latter village Colonel Stuart's brigade was afterwards posted, Tizir Pacha's division was posted at Izaowi, Ibrahim Pacha's at Shubra, and the Vizir's body of troops at Dimiet. Nevertheless, exposed as they were, Colonel Stuart, who had remained according to orders in his post, was obliged to march to their support, and encamped on their right. The next morning, the 21st of June, the English army advanced to within a mile and a half of Giza, encamping in two lines, with their left on Dockee, and the right on Zaneen. The Turks encamped in two lines, threw forward their right to Tahourmis, and the Mamelukes were posted in their rear. Some Mamelukes, who had advanced under Osman Bey Hassan and Mahommed Bey Elfi, attacked the enemy's post of cavalry in front of Giza, and charged it in a very handsome manner, pursuing within one hundred and fifty yards of the works of the place; and although the French fired sharply with their cannon

non at them, killing and wounding several horses, they retired again in perfect good order.

This affair, if not brilliant, from the loss of the enemy, four or five being only killed and two taken; still was honourable to the Mamelukes, and assured the English that their reputation was justly earned; and their occupation of Sachatmichle, a village within 300 yards of the works of Giza, immediately afterwards, was an important movement, meriting the highest commendation.

Captain Brice having reported that from a wood in front of this village the attack upon Giza and the bridge should be made, an English officer, with five hundred Arnauts, were at ten o'clock at night detached to occupy it. The silence which they preserved during the march, and regularity with which they took up the several posts allotted them, gave a strong proof of their improved discipline, and how soon good example, with zealous commanders to superintend, may organise even barbarians. The highest credit must be given to Colonel Linderthal, who had been appointed to act as Quarter Master General to the Turks, from the first movement at Elhamed. The arrangements he made, the ability he shewed on all occasions, and the incessant attention he paid to their improvement, combined with the anxious support of the Captain Pacha, produced this almost incredible change in the wildest of men. His talents in the Quarter Master General's department are well known, and need not be enlarged on here.

Night and day the greatest exertions were made to drag up the heavy cannon and requisite ammunition, the depôt of which was formed at Talbia. Whilst the arrival of the 42d and 28th regiments from Alexandria, under General Hope,* who had recovered from his wounds, diffused new spirits, General Moore also,

* General Hope requested to have a brigade, and Colonel Abercrombie succeeded him as adjutant general.

to

to the great joy of the army, reinstated in his health, joined, and his presence alone was esteemed a valuable reinforcement.

The general had intended to change the front of the army, and take up an oblique position, so as to approach with his right nearer the point of attack, when on the 22d of June, in the morning early, a French officer, from Giza, with a flag of truce, was brought in to the general by Captain Taylor. He came from General Belliard, to require that an English officer might be sent to a conference he proposed. The general consented, and sent to know of what rank the officer should be. The answer was returned, that, as the matter to be discussed was of the highest importance, it was requested that a General Officer might be sent. General Hope was therefore named, who met a French colonel of engineers, Touissard, near Giza, and staid with him a long time.

The next morning, by agreement, General Moran and General Hope met under the trees near Giza. Three tents were pitched for them and their attendants. A guard of honour, composed of grenadiers and cavalry, attended each.

General Belliard had at first proposed, that each party should have an armed escort; but General Hutchinson answered, that between the troops of civilized nations, such a precaution could not be necessary; a reply which handsomely maintained the dignity of his allies. No congress was ever more interesting. Never, in the presence of such an army, composed of the troops of so many nations, on such remarkable ground, on a more important subject, was heretofore a military council held.

General Moran unequivocally declared, that the object of his instructions was the evacuation of Cairo, and the return of that garrison to France. To arrange which, Isaac Bey, on the part of the Captain Pacha, Mahommed Pacha, for the Vizir, and Osman Bey, for the Mamelukes, were appointed; and on the

the part of the French, General Donzelot, and Colonel Tarayre, chéf de brigade, were the negociators. Captain Taylor officiated as secretary.

Late in the evening the conference broke up, when a cessation of hostilities for forty-eight hours was proclaimed. The reason assigned for so long an armistice was the representation made by General Moran that General Belliard was obliged to call a council of war, which it was difficult to assemble, from the severity of the duty of the superior officers.

The conferences, notwithstanding, proceeded; on the 24th the line of demarcation was settled, and on the 26th the definitive articles were agreed to.

The French had demanded, in addition to the terms, two millions of livres from the Turks, for the payment of their own debts in Cairo, and as the balance of revenue due to them from Egypt: but this claim General Hope positively refused to discuss, and the Turkish deputies represented, that, on the contrary, they must demand from them a greater sum for the ships seized in Alexandria, at the infraction of the convention of El Arish, and for the purses advanced to General Kleber on the faith of that treaty.

Two deserters of the hussars came in during the night. The general represented to them their folly; they refused nevertheless to go back, and afterwards deserted again to the Mamelukes.

On the morning of the 27th the capitulation was signed, but the articles were not published to the English army until a copy, printed and circulated by General Belliard, was obtained from Cairo. An arrangement, not made public, was however stipulated, that the French troops, embarked in men of war, were to give up their arms to the custody of the captain during the passage.

The Turks made much opposition to Madam Menou's leaving

 Egypt;

Egypt; and the general was obliged decidedly to assure them that he would protect her person.

On the 28th of June the fort of Soulkowfshi was taken possession of by the 30th regiment, and the gate of Giza by the grenadiers of the line, and a detachment of the body guards of the Captain Pacha; a compliment paid by General Belliard to him individually, as the French had expressly stipulated that no Turks were to take possession of the forts.

The same day Colonel Paget was sent as an hostage to the French, and they sent Colonel Langlois to the British camp, an officer of the same rank to the Vizir, and Colonel Touissard to the Captain Pacha. In the evening Arabs came in to report that sixty of the dromedary corps were passing through the Desert to Cairo.

The capitulation of Cairo crowned the daring march which General Hutchinson's judgment planned, and resolution persevered in. Its conquest secured Egypt, and, without the most improbable misfortunes, the speedy fall of Alexandria.

The sickly state of the army, the heat of the weather, the fatigue of a siege, which must chiefly have been borne by the British, the advance of the season, when the Nile overflows, were all anxious and serious considerations. Yet although every one rejoiced in the event, opinion was much divided as to the conditions; and the more removed from the participation of these dangers were the arbitrators, the greater naturally were their surprize and resentment at them. The army before Alexandria even began to think that the army of Cairo had unworthily terminated its career; but the demand of the commissary for seventeen thousand daily rations staggered these opinions; and although they believed the commissariat had required unreasonably, and that the *employés* were very numerous, still they could not but suspect the effective garrison must be very considerable. The only real objections which ought to have been made

made to the conditions were grounded on the long and dangerous repose to offensive operations, which the time allowed for the evacuation must occasion; but then the two sieges of Giza and Cairo must be calculated, which in case of resistance would have consumed nearly the same time.

The surrender of the capital of such a colony, where private property was to be respected, certainly required some days before all could be arranged; but the extraordinary term here demanded, excited suspicions that General Belliard's completion of the capitulation would depend on contingencies; and as neither Fort Soulkowfshi nor the gate of Giza were tenable posts, much less commanding forts, in the event of a renewal of hostilities, the caution of the enemy almost amounting to apparent duplicity, might naturally create jealousy. Every one will soon, however, acknowledge that the English had no right from any decided superiority to dictate harder terms.

On the 2d, Colonel Montresor, an officer who well merited the distinction, was sent with the dispatches to England; and the French officers, who were to go into Alexandria and arrange the embarkation, accompanied him down the Nile.

In the night of the 4th of July, one hundred of the corps of dromedaries, with an aid de camp of General Menou, coming from Alexandria, and passing from the Desert within a few hundred yards of the Turkish camp, entered in at the very gate of Giza which the British occupied, who being only an interior guard, or in fact honorary prisoners, could not attempt to prevent their entrance. The glaring neglect which had allowed a body of the enemy to pass unseen, not only along the front of an army, but between its posts, where a line of communication could with facility, and should have been indisputably established, notwithstanding the capitulation, justly deserved a severe punishment. Yet the humanity of General Hutchinson would not allow him to prefer a complaint to the

 Captain

Captain Pacha, when the consequence would have been the disgrace, if not the loss of the head of a most zealous, brave, and active commander, who assuredly was responsible, but probably not in fact culpable.

Speculation was various as to the contents of those dispatches, which were ascertained to be answers to a letter from General Belliard, sent by a detachment of the dromedary corps the night before the British army moved to invest Giza; their contents are still only to be guessed by events and rumours.

It is however remarkable, that this detachment should have arrived at the Pyramids early on the morning of the 28th, and perceiving the English camp remained there reconnoitring the whole day, and yet not be discovered, since daily, from the first conference, hundreds of soldiers flocked to and ascended the top of the highest Pyramid, from whence an horizon of twenty miles in circumference, and a level plain, without intermediate swells of soil, was distinctly visible. How their concealment happened, is unaccountable, unless no soldiers went there on that very day, which is equally singular; but every one must agree, that as its success was astonishing, so was the hardihood of the enterprise worthy the greatest commendation, and particularly, as they knew that their discovery by the Turks must inevitably have ensured their destruction.

The general now issued orders, thanking the army for that conduct, which had so much distinguished it, and which orders are to be seen at the end of this work. Certainly no troops had ever shewn more resolution, patience, and spirit. The duty of the officers and men had been most severe, yet they bore every hardship without a murmur; and although four months in arrears of pay, never were guilty of the smallest excess. Dysentery and blindness had made great ravages amongst them, and they had no shelter from the burning heat of the sun: their tents opposed

no resistance to the rays, but rather concentrated their force. Frequently they were obliged to drink only water, and wanting shoes, had to tread on the fiery soil, and on the prickly furzes which covered the surface.

All the departments of the army had exerted the utmost zeal, and that of the quarter master general in particular bore the hardest service. Every day, when the army after its march reposed, these officers were obliged to proceed in front, and reconnoitre the next encampment, frequently till night never tasting the smallest refreshment. Colonel Anstruther himself set the example, being always the first man on his horse, and the last to take rest. Captain Marley, as the only officer with Colonel Stuart's column, had very great severity of duty, and as zealously exerted himself; whilst the officers of the army in general were animated by the same spirit,* and no one quitted but in a state that would have rendered it certain death to have remained, and many risked too much. This is not fulsome adulation, but truth which should be mentioned by a military narrator.

To relieve the *ennui* which the present indolent state of the army produced, and particularly as no permission was given to enter into Cairo, the Pyramids, distant only about four miles, had become the constant subject of occupation; and the very soldiers in going there, seemed to find a recompence for many of their toils, to exult more in their triumphs, and feel the enjoyment which travellers must experience on attaining the ultimate object of their research. Their minds aggrandised with honest pride, and honourable reflections.

The Pyramids, which are consecrated from the most remote antiquity, as forming one of the seven wonders of the world, at a distance impose neither awe nor any idea of stupendous

* Lieutenant Ross, of the 79th regiment, having lost his arm in the action of the 21st, refused to go to England, but as soon as he was nearly recovered, joined his regiment again at Rhamanieh. Such anecdotes, honourable to the service as well as to the individuals, demand mention.

magni-

magnificence: they are situated on the immediate borders of the Désert, which elevates itself like a cliff above the cultivated country: their form, if one of the objects of their construction was to excite surprise at their grandeur and altitude, was the worst which could be conceived, but when arrived at the very base of the great Pyramid, then its wonders require positive vision to credit. The mind is lost in the calculation, and the eye, unaccustomed to such masses, cannot imagine to itself such dimensions. The vastness of the granite blocks, the quantity of labour which must have been employed, the lever which must have been necessary to raise such stupendous masses of rock, its original beauty from the various coloured marbles, porphyry and granite, with which the sides have been cased, impress with unequalled sentiments of admiration and astonishment. When, however, reflection directs the thought to the surprising works of genius and learning of those ages in which these were constructed, and contrasts the present abject race of their posterity, the mind cannot but lament the degradation of such a portion of human nature, and consider the Pyramids as a monument for melancholy instruction.

The heighth of the large Pyramid is at last definitively ascertained by the French to be six hundred feet, the length of its base seven hundred feet. The quantity of cubic feet of solid stone is by them estimated to contain a sufficiency for the building of a wall of four hundred and fifty miles in extent, three feet in height, and five inches in thickness. Near the top, part of the case still remains, on which are supposed to be hieroglyphics; its pinnacle is about thirty yards square, on which the French Savants once dined, and which was now constantly crowded with English. The names of Bruce,* of Algernon Sydney,

* For the honour of Bruce it should be told, that every circumstance tends to corroborate his veracity. The French made many enquiries, and unite in testifying to his reputation; and many of the Abyssinians, who came with the caravans, remembered them in the country.

Volney,

Volney, and several others, were carved on the stones; and it does them no small credit to have ventured as solitary travellers to the top of this gloomy pile. The view from hence is frightfully barren; an immeasurable waste of Desert is only interrupted by the narrow flat of cultivated land which separates the Deserts of Lybia and Arabia, nor can that arid soil, and the wretched villages in the valley, afford any scene picturesque or gratifying. The eye can only rest with any pleasure on the waters of the Nile, the island of Rhoda, and some fine orange trees in the neighbourhood of Giza. These only can refresh the aching sight; and yet this view has so fascinated, as to make Savary believe that the poets from hence must have formed their ideas of Elysium,* and so enraptured him as to excite his regrets that he could not remain during life in this garden of bliss. But Savary has proved himself a bad judge of the beautiful in country and women; his paradise placed in Europe would be deserted like a wilderness, and his houri's become antiquated virgins.

The ascent to the top is very difficult, and requires resolution and strength; each stone is at least four feet high, and the only steps are made by each superior one receding to form the pyramid, about three feet. The descent is more unpleasant, yet the soldiers went up and down, without any accident, perpetually. At the base of the north front is a door, over which are many hieroglyphics. This, Strabo assures us, was originally half way up the Pyramid, and that the drifting sand has covered the base so high. This story would be absurd to credit, if only subject to the observation that such a quantity of drift-

* Several great canals, which separated Memphis from the Pyramids of Sacarah, did furnish the Greeks with the idea of their infernal rivers, Acheron, Cocytus, and Lethe; but it required Savary's imagination to place the Elysian fields here on account of the beauty of the scenery.

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ing sand must necessarily encroach on the cultivated country also, which it has not done evidently; but now the French, by digging at the four corners, have ascertained the base, and found that no such alteration has taken place, since it is erected on solid rock, and from the excavations around, there is evident proof that the bodies of the Pyramids are constructed of this rock; the huge masses of porphyry and granite used to case them were brought from the neighbourhood of Cossir, on the Red Sea. By the door at the north front is the entrance into the intrior of the Pyramid, into the sanctum of the wonder of the world. The passage at first is very narrow and low, then afterwards enlarges. At the extremity of one branch is a well, the depth of which was never ascertained. Another passage communicates to several chambers, in the largest of which is a stone coffin, the lid is taken away, and several attempts have been made to break the sarcophagus, fortunately the hardness of the stone resisted the gothic violence. The Arabs pretend, that the corpse of a man, with his sword and some gold ornaments, were found at the first opening of the coffin; but these traditions are too vague to collect any positive information from. The only certain fact seems to be, that therein reposed the corpse of that prince, for whose memory this stupendous structure was erected.

There are two other very large pyramids, one of which Morad Bey attempted to open; many stones were dug out, when the labour was found so hydra-headed, that avarice was obliged to abandon the design, and thus this uncompleted work of destruction remains as a monument for the preservation of the rest. There are the ruins of about thirteen smaller ones, numerous catacombs in the rocks, in many of which the colours of the bas relief on the walls are preserved perfectly fresh. From these circumstances, the corresponding Pyramids

of

of Sacarah, and the plain of Mummies, no doubt can remain of these gigantic piles having been intended to inclose the bodies, and perpetuate the fame of princes who hoped in such mighty characters to have their renown recorded for ever, but whose ashes are dispersed like those of their meaner subjects, and of whose name history retains no trace. Ambition may hence receive instruction, and mortified pride consolation.

Sixty yards to the right of the great Pyramid from the eastward front, and facing Cairo, is the celebrated Sphynx. This enormous figure is carved out of one stone, and the French have uncovered more of the form than had been seen for centuries: the expression of the face is feminine and Nubian, but all her features have been mutilated by barbarous fanatics; the feet are not visible, she has no breasts, and the rock seems only to have been cut out so as to mark the back of a lion, which representation is said to signify that the Nile increases when the sun passes from Leo into Virgo. The height is twenty-six feet, the circumference of the head is twelve feet, the length of the back is not exactly ascertained, but from what can be seen is probably sixty feet; the top of the head being hollowed out, favours the supposition that the priests, concealing themselves there, delivered those oracles which the miserable rabble believed proceeded from the God direct. Others have conjectured, that there was a subterraneous communication between this and the Pyramids, which idea is proved to be erroneous, as the neck is found to be solid. The sphynx certainly has been hewn out of the solid rock, on which the figure seems now to recline. The learned Mr. Bryant has therefore proved perfectly correct in his hypothesis respecting its formation.

To the north-east, in the plain of the cultivated country, and about a mile from the Pyramids, are seen two bridges of Sa-

 racen

racen architecture; for what purpose these were constructed cannot be discovered, as they afford at present no advantage of communication at any season of the year; one bridge is considerably larger than the other, and the arches of both are numerous.

About thirteen miles distant are seen the Pyramids of Sacarah, which are not so large as those of Giza; under them are the celebrated Mummy Pits, which extend several leagues, tradition affirms as far as the great Pyramids of Giza.

The operation of descending into these pits is extremely disagreeable. Bedouin Arabs are the conductors, who bring the adventurers to some holes, down which they sling themselves by a rope about thirty yards, whilst the loose stones tumbling from above inflict the severest injuries; on reaching the bottom, they are shewn an opening like an oven, to get into which they are obliged to fall flat on their faces, and creep in that manner, or rather shove themselves backwards, their legs necessarily going first, for fear of suffocation, for twenty yards, over rubbish and ruins, in total darkness.

The height of the passage does not really admit of the smallest bend in the person to assist the progress; when this uncomfortable avenue is passed, the catacombs or vaults allow of a man's standing upright.

In the bird-pits millions of earthen pots lie, in the recesses in which the sacred birds of Egypt, particularly the Ibis, are enclosed, and occasionally the bones of animals are found: these pots are closed by a strong cement, which no air can penetrate; when broken, there drops out what is apparently a lump of burnt cinders, which proves to be the cloth in which the bodies were preserved.* In almost all, the string which bound them remains perfect, and their feathers are preserved with their very shades of colour.

* One of them is to be seen in the European Museum, King Street, St. James's Square.

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The mummy-pits, where human bodies are deposited, have been much ransacked by the French, at least that part which was open to their researches; still several whole bodies are found even now, without penetrating far, and two or three perfect mummies have been brought to England. Indeed the Arabs, for four sequins, would always engage to find and bring one into Cairo.

The curiosity of travellers is a considerable profit to them, and they are incessantly employed in collecting numerous little idols and broken fragments of statues and sculpture, which are found in immense quantities. A party of officers who had been in the pits, and shewn much anxiety in their search for mummies, were surprised whilst sitting in the Sheik's house of the village called Menf, and which is within two hundred yards of the catacombs, to see during the repast they were making, some Arabs bring in a basket with great eagerness. The officers naturally supposed that they were about to produce some acceptable increase of provisions, when, on laying down the basket, they were presented with the sight of four human heads, three of which retained their eyes, and each a beautiful set of teeth, three arms with hands, two legs with feet attached, one foot separate, and on all of which the nails were perfect, and sinews distinct. The Arabs had collected them with much zeal, in the anticipation of reward, supposing that the English would purchase at any rate such precious antiquities; an Italian servant did give a tolerable consideration for the remains, calculating, that on his return to his own country, he should at least obtain for them their weight in gold.

In the wretched hovel where this singular market was established, lay on the floor a flat stone, of three feet in length, and two in breadth, on which were sculptured fourteen or fifteen figures of women, apparently dancing, with a great many lines of hieroglyphics inscribed above and beneath them.

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The natives could not restrain their smile of conceit on seeing the English regard a stone with such serious attention, and as a Mameluke explained, laughed heartily at some good jokes amongst themselves about Christian ignorance.

Mr. Hammer, foreign secretary to Sir Sydney Smith, a gentleman whose services are most gratefully acknowledged by that officer, and whose perfect Arabic knowledge enabled him to prosecute the most interesting researches, afterwards removed this very stone, and sent it to Vienna.

Between the Pyramids of Sacarah and of Giza is supposed to have been situated the celebrated city of Memphis, and that the plain of mummies was the burying ground. Historians have never agreed, however, as to its positive situation; but the French working in some ruins, found the hand of the colossal statue of Vulcan, which originally stood in Memphis, and which may be deemed good circumstantial evidence of the scite being about that spot. This hand was taken from the French at Alexandria, and will be lodged with the other antiquities, manuscripts, and valuable trophies brought from thence, in the British Museum; when the public may hope to receive an accurate account of the whole from Colonel Turner, of the Guards, whose learning and particular attention to this branch of science justly selected him as the proper person to have charge of, and add to the collection of those valuable monuments.

On the 1st of July a deputation of the Christians came from Cairo to the general, who assured them of every protection; and Osman Bey Bardici received final instructions to meet and aid the Indian army, ordered to move down the Nile from Cunei.

On the 6th the Grand Vizir came to review the army, and the same day General Kleber's coffin was removed from Fort Ibrahim Bey, where it had been deposited, the French army having resolved to carry with them his remains to France.

The

The Vizir arrived at the instant the French commenced firing their minute guns, which the English artillery were directed to answer.

The circumstances of the moment rendered this scene, in itself impressive, particularly interesting; but the assassination of General Kleber is a mystery which time, perhaps, may never unravel.

The Grand Vizir was delighted at the appearance of the English troops, who, notwithstanding their rags, formed a very martial parade. The Scotch regiments, from been *sans culottes*, particularly excited his wonder.

The Captain Pacha then shewed his army with no small consciousness of triumph, and the regularity of the encampment so pleased the Vizir, that he requested officers of the quarter master general's department might be sent to arrange his in the same way; his Highness's troops, however, disapproved of the alteration, and on the morning the movement was to be made, fired the usual signal, a few musquet shots through his tent, which hint was understood, and complied with immediately.

On his return he played the dgiredde, and the same puerility, as before described, was practised by his whole suite. The attendants affected to receive from his javelins repeated wounds, screamed in agony, fell from their horses, and expired with all the mummery of a death scene in a Punch farce.

Whilst the British camp displayed this festivity, the French lines presented a gloomy scene of mourning, for as at the obsequies of General Kleber, real sorrow again agitated every heart. It was not the muffled beat, the trappings of ceremony, the imposing stillness of parade, but the silent manliness of unaffected grief, which diffused the mournful solemnity. Every soldier, as the coffin passed, felt that therein their benefactor's, a father's bones reposed ; a leader, whose intrepidity had been

been their admiration, and example; whose talents had often secured them the victory, and who in the hour of distress never abandoned them; the man who, when Bonaparte deserted them, cheered their desponding spirits by his paternal exhortations, and whose exertions were constantly devoted to their welfare. They dwelt on his merits, they reflected on his fate, and Kleber became deified and adored. Had Bonaparte witnessed this scene, he would have himself regretted perhaps the exclamation which he made with indignant pride, when Kleber, wishing to heal up some differences which had existed between them, began his letter with the fraternal term of "*Camerade*"---"*Camerade! Camerade! Qu'est qu'il y'a de commun entre Kleber et moi?*"*

Fortunate was it for Bonaparte that the hand of an assassin deprived Kleber of life: his word was passed, his resolution fixed to take ample vengeance; nor did personal resentment only urge him. The public wrong he had also pledged himself to redress; neither would the aggrandisement of his rival have humiliated him by servile obsequiousness and dereliction from his oath.†

As an officer, Kleber must rank amongst the first; as a man, he was equally estimable, and the trait of regard for discipline he displayed, when Bonaparte, rifling the military chest, leaving only a few parats or farthings which by accident adhered, quitted the army without any previous communication, stripped Alexandria of artillery, and subjected him to all the evils

* It is difficult to give in English the full force of this contemptuous sentence, allusive to inferiority of qualities, not of rank; but it signifies, "What pretensions of any nature can authorise Kleber to address me as an equal?"

† Kleber was a German; and it is remarkable that most of the best officers who have served in France during this war, have been foreigners. The great, the estimable General Moreau, must, however, be put in competition with any of them; and General Pichegru, who in no quality is inferior to his rival, unfortunately we cannot say, friend.

which

which penury, discontent, and weakness could expose a commander to, must ever obtain an universal applause.

Still faithful to his duty, and the service he was engaged in, Kleber made no public complaint or appeal; on the contrary, he even framed an apology for the man who had so injured him, by which generous conduct subordination was preserved, and the rising spirit of mutiny subdued;* a noble sacrifice, which exposed himself to the odium of being thought a friend to the enemy of the army, for so Bonaparte was then deemed, and which imputation, if General Kleber's virtues had not been his own safeguard, would have produced the most fatal consequences.

Several English officers had been present at the procession, and witnessed the tears of affection which flowed from the eyes of the soldiery;† nor is his name now ever mentioned amongst them without exciting feelings of regret, admiration, and gratitude; at that time it was always accompanied by the vow of devotion to his cause.

The skeleton of the assassin was also conveyed to France. This wretched being had been impaled alive, and lived in that state for three days; neither in the cutting off his hand, nor the dreadful operation which humanity and manhood revolt at, did he betray the least fear; his only cry was for water, and occasionally a curse against those who had betrayed him with the hopes of pardon, into confession.

During the night of the 10th the French evacuated Cairo, and sent notice of their intention to Colonel Stuart. An arrangement had been previously made, that when Cairo was

* The garrison in Alexandria had even seized on the shipping, and the army insisted on the evacuation of Egypt.

† At dinner, even the day before also, when the conversation turned on Kleber's conduct, the tears started in the eyes of every one present at General Belliard's table, and his memory was talked of with enthusiasm.

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taken possession of, which was not expected before the morning of the 11th, a detachment of the Captain Pacha's body guard should enter also; but as this early evacuation was not known till very late at night, the quarter master general, who happened to be on the eastern side, on the emergency of the moment directed the 89th to march directly, and occupy the citadel.

Colonel Stuart found the city abandoned, but could not gain entrance into the citadel before three o'clock in the morning, the gates being closed, and no one left to open them.

A French officer, soon after sun-rise, who had accidentally remained behind, came to Colonel Stuart, and was recommended by him to stay until he could be escorted to his own army; declining that protection, he went alone into the town, where the inhabitants in a few moments surrounded and fired at him, then stripped him naked, and at last put an end to his existence and sufferings with large stones. So anxious had every person been to assist in this massacre, that such a pile was heaped over him as almost totally to conceal his limbs.

The Captain Pacha in the morning finding the English already in possession of the citadel, was extremely angry: he came soon after day-break to the general, complained of being deceived, and treated with indignity, nor could he scarcely be pacified by the representation of the circumstances: indeed, he had some excuse for being suspicious of this repeated combination of accidents against his consequence. Quitting with some resentment the English head quarters, he instantly afterwards passed over with his body guard to Boulac, and from thence proceeded to the citadel, where fortunately the British flag had not been hoisted, and which was now raised up under the Turkish, a compliment highly gratifying to the Ottomans.

The Captain Pacha's troops had preserved the strictest order, and the anxious inhabitants began to indulge in hopes, when

when the entry of the Grand Vizir's army renewed their apprehensions; for they came *en masse*, shouting and firing off their musquets in the streets, with every symptom of the most licentious disorganization. However, to the credit of the Vizir, who found means to control their mischievous inclinations, independent of one or two Christian merchants being obliged to ransom themselves, and a French *lady*'s house pillaged, no act of violence was perpetrated. There is a suspicion, however, that the Turkish soldiers individually taking advantage of the panic of the inhabitants, and augmenting the fears of an intended general sacking of the city by the main army, persuaded the shopkeepers that they would protect them in that dreadful moment, but stipulated that in the interim they must be considered as partners in their trade, and receive every night a moiety of the day's profits. Certainly the universal appearance of a Janissary seated on the shopboard of each house, earnestly welcoming customers, was strong presumptive, if not positive evidence, of the fact being as represented.

At the house of Rosetti, the Imperial Consul, were assembled all the women of the Franks, about seventy in number, who had fled thither as to an asylum, where in the event of the quarter of the Franks being sacked, they might find protection from respect to the Imperial arms. Their beauty did not correspond with those hopes the report of such an assemblage naturally inspired, and the ladies of Europe retained the influence of their attractions.

The inspection of Grand Cairo was no less big with disappointment. The French had anticipated on their arrival the sight of magnificent buildings, grand squares, sumptuous decorations, a general appearance of wealth and riches of commerce, the enjoyment of every luxury in all the profusion of eastern splendour, in short, a capital where their recreations

would amply compensate them for the misery they had suffered on their route thither. This city they fondly fancied to have been the emporium, which was the object of the expedition, and the reward of France to them for their services in Europe. Great therefore was their disappointment, when they saw none of these expectations realized, but, on the contrary, the desperate certainty that they were involved in a wretchedness, from which they could not escape.

The English, instructed by their error, expected little, yet did not reduce their ideas low enough.

The town of Boulac, which is the great suburb of Cairo, was one heap of ruins, having been destroyed by the French during the siege in the insurrection in the year 1799. A few wretched hovels, and two or three barracks, were the only remaining buildings of this once large and populous fauxbourg.

The city of Cairo itself is also very much shattered at the different entrances; the streets are about two yards wide, the houses very high, and built of brick, like those of Rosetta.

The palaces of the Beys are large; two or three of them are very fine buildings, particularly Cassan Bey's, where the Institute was held, and the house in Place Bequier, in which Kleber lived, and in the garden of which he was murdered.*

Place Bequier is a large open square, where most of the Beys resided, but many of their houses have been destroyed by the French; indeed, one whole side is in ruins. This place has, however, been otherwise improved by them, trees being planted on each side of the roads, which cross the square at right angles, and fosses having been dug to retain the water, with the view of checking the dreadful quantity of dust which flies from the sand and ruins always in the evening.

* He was stabbed whilst walking on a terrace, and several drops of his blood still mark the railing against which he staggered.

To conceive the true nature of this insufferable nuisance, the whirlwind of other countries must be imagined as occurring every evening, and filling the whole atmosphere of Egypt with burning dust, and the light particles of rubbish. Thus the only part of the day which is tolerable from the diminution of heat cannot be taken advantage of as the opportunity for exercise.*

The French had intended to have opened the streets of Cairo, and formed through Place Bequier a magnificent road from the citadel to Giza; but the distraction of the times did not allow of these improvements being attended to, and thus the city bears irretrievable monuments of their ravages, with very few indeed of their benefits. The bairas or exchanges, which the merchants occupy, are large square buildings, divided into little shops, in which the treasures of the caravans were deposited. Since the arrival of the French, none had come from Arabia, and even an unwashed shawl was not to be bought.

The citadel, in which the Pacha was always kept as a kind of state prisoner, is a miserable paltry castle, and the avenue of houses leading to it is horrible. In the citadel is the celebrated well called Joseph's, being dug in the time of a Vizir bearing that name. It is excavated in the rock, is two hundred and eighty feet deep, and forty-two in circumference. Winding stairs lead gradually to the bottom, and some way down, oxen are employed in turning the wheels to raise the water, which is very brackish.

In the quarter of the Franks are two monasteries, which are

* Independent of this general state of the atmosphere, large pillars of dust and wind are always visible. Sometimes in the circle of the horizon twenty are to be seen, and scarcely ever fewer than four or five. Their force is very great, and the tents were instantly blown into the air by them.

kept in very good order. The Monks were extremely hospitable, but the French almost reduced them to absolute want, and robbed their churches as well as their apartments of every thing which could be converted into money. By their necessities or avaricious pillage, the French had always in Egypt so vexed the people, that neither Turks, Copts, Arabs, nor even Franks, were friendly to them. The latter had peculiarly suffered from fines and imprisonments; indeed so much, that they preferred the government of the Mamelukes, for each merchant had then his patron Bey, whom he served, and charged against him again in goods those losses power had extorted from him; thus a reciprocal interest and understanding were established between them, by which the person of the merchant was protected,* whilst the Beys, never thinking beyond their own immediate wants, considered them as a kind of banker, whom they might command at any time, and repay with the exactions levied on others, an exchange the Franks knew how to convert into their own favour; on the contrary, during the French government, enormous impositions were laid on them; they were repeatedly sent as hostages to the citadel, and instead of obtaining the consequence they expected, were reduced to poverty, and treated with insult.

The circumference of the city of Cairo, including the suburb

* Travellers have described with much indignation the treatment which the Franks experienced, and particularly mentioned the indignity of their being obliged in Cairo to ride on jack-asses; but the fact is, that the Mamelukes wishing to keep the good horses to themselves, made this regulation; nor is it at all severe, since this animal, so much despised in Europe, is in Egypt beautiful, with very good paces. Their mules are also excellent, indeed both so good that to ride about a town every one would prefer them. The wives of the Beys even ride on them. To pass the Desert, dromedaries are used; and to travel to Rosetta, the Nile is the most agreeable passage. It was, however, rather a ludicrous scene, to see the British infantry officers riding on jack-asses, and every one kept his Dapple, since an order was issued by the Commander in Chief against the purchase of horses, except for the cavalry and the general service.

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of Boulac, is six miles; and yet this place, till lately, was considered in the east, and partially through Europe, as the largest capital in the world.

The people were excessively dirty, mostly affected in their eyes; and swarms of beggars, distorted, or unnatural formed wretches, crowded the streets.* The manners and customs of the inhabitants are so well delineated in the Arabian Nights Entertainments,† that every one agreeably has been made acquainted with them.

The military position of Cairo is not good; its citadel is commanded by the heights of Mokattam, which are perpendicularly elevated about a stone's throw from the works, and completely look into every battery, so that musquetry could play on any part. But to plant cannon on these heights would have been extremely difficult. The detour was very considerable to reach them, yet necessary, in order to avoid the forts, whilst the immense chasms and ravines in this part of the Desert, to go round which there was scarcely a camel's track, rendered any attempt to bring heavy artillery almost impossible; and as the number of troops to maintain the post must have been proportioned to the strength of the garrison, the great want of water would have rendered its occupation nearly impracticable; yet if these obstacles could have been surmounted,

* There were two very remarkable cases, one was of a man who apparently had no body; and the other of one who had a belly hanging down from his navel to his ancles; a blue skin contained his bowels, but which seemed so thin as to be liable every moment to burst. The weight was enormous, and its size appeared much larger than an ox's paunch. The unfortunate wretch was otherwise in good health, and crawled about, gaining his bread by begging.

† It may afford some pleasure to many readers, and particularly the female part, for it is presumed they will honour this work by a perusal, to know that Mr. Hammer, in Cairo, procured a complete edition of the Arabian Nights Entertainments in Arabic manuscript, containing many more stories than have as yet been published, and which he means to translate.

mounted, the citadel was so weak, that a very slight battery would have crumbled the whole into dust.

The French, for the further defence of the town, constructed on the high hills of rubbish, which laid on the north and east fronts of it, small square stone towers, at such distances as to flank each other, and the line of each front was commanded by a principal fort, that to the north was called Fort Camin, that on the east Fort Dupuis.

All of these towers were bomb proof, a deep ditch surrounded them, and a gun from the upper story was worked out of a covered embrasure.* Each was provided with a cistern; the door was in the centre, and a moveable ladder the means of ascent: so fortified, they defied assault, and would have required the battering of heavy artillery, when they might have still resisted four or five days; but nevertheless, as they could be passed in an assault by night, they were to be considered rather as a strong chain of works to an entrenched camp, than the defences of a fortified city.

Behind these was a line of entrenchments, in front of which was dug a very deep ditch, and the walls of Cairo formed the last line of defence.

The southern front was protected by an aqueduct (with the cavity of the arches built up), extending from the citadel to a large building on the banks of the stream, forming the island of Rhoda, and in which were the works to throw up the water into the aqueduct. This building was converted into a fort by the French. In front were several small detached forts, and

* Each tower was intended to be manned with fifteen men; it was such a tower as those which at Corsica resisted for three days several men of war, one of which was set on fire, and another dismasted; nor was it taken until a landing was made by some troops.

the remains of Old Cairo,* which place was not fortified except by a few batteries on the bank of the Nile, open in the gorge, consequently not to be defended against an army which had crossed the river higher.

Fort Ibrahim Bey and Fort L'Institute formed the second line. This was the weakest side in regard of fortification, but strong from position, as the Nile was to be passed, and the front was very contracted.

The western side is defended by the Nile and the island of Rhoda, on which were several heavy batteries, particularly at the northern point. At the dry season of the year, the interior channel, which runs by the farm of Ibrahim Bey, is fordable in several places, so that the Nile must be considered then as the only river to be forced.

The island of Rhoda is the prettiest spot in Egypt; very fine orange trees grow along its banks, affording the most gratifying shade, yet do not prove a sufficient barrier to the whirlwinds and clouds of dust, which, although having to pass the Nile, are still here intolerable. On this island is the celebrated Mekias, by which the height of the Nile is ascertained: a redoubt with six pieces of cannon, served as the *tète du pont* to the bridge, which connects Giza. Giza is a dirty village, which the French have improved by building half a dozen houses, and establishing in it their manufactories of arms, shot,

* In Old Cairo, except the granaries of the Patriarch Joseph, which are only large pieces of ground enclosed by walls, and divided into compartments, there is nothing remarkable. The greater part of the place is in ruins. Here the Greek Patriarch resided, and who was a very fine venerable old man. Babylon, founded by Cambyses, stood on the scite of this city; a quarter of the town, called Baboul, marks now its position. A large canal, supposed by some to have been constructed in the time of Adrian, and by others in the reign of one of the Pharoahs, commences a little above Old Cairo, and crosses the middle of the new town from the west to the north-east, but forms no defence; as it is only filled with water during the months of August, September, and October. A splendid ceremony takes place when the water of the Nile is let into this canal.

&c. The chief ornament of the place is a palace of Morad Bey's, much in ruins; and an excellent coffee house kept by a Frenchman, who remained behind, was acknowledged to be its most agreeable embellishment.

The works of Giza are very contemptible, a wall surrounds the whole, except on the northern front, where Morad Bey's house forms the defence. This wall is very thin, and not high enough to render an escalade difficult, but to delay the immediate approach, a chain of redoubts was thrown forwards about sixty yards; yet the whole resistance would have proved insignificant, if the strength of the garrison had not prevented an assault. Such was Cairo and its out-works. In this state, defended by ten thousand men, and with three hundred and sixty-three serviceable pieces of cannon, including the fifty removed by the French, did the whole surrender without the firing of a shot.

Several questions will naturally arise on which military men must form their own opinions, as one recorded here might be supposed to express the general sentiments of the English army, and thus prejudice the judgment of others not so interested. Four queries are most important.

Was Cairo, with the means the French possessed, a tenable place against the army which attacked, until the rising of the Nile? Or did the force of the combined army and the hostility of the inhabitants subject the garrison in the event of holding out some time, to the moral certainty of destruction?

Should at all events a commander, placed as General Belliard was, have resisted as long as possible, or did the terms he obtained benefit his country as much as a more vigorous defence?

Particular attention must be paid to the period when the Nile is so increased as to overflow its banks, and inundate the country, from which a certain time must then be deducted

for

for the march of an army, in order to avoid being overtaken by the waters; therefore as the Nile generally rises to its highest elevation in the beginning of August, the latter end of July will be the latest moment until which an army could remain in the neighbourhood of Cairo without considerable danger. The animosity of the inhabitants is acknowledged, for they would, notwithstanding General Belliard had seized on the persons of the principal Sheiks, have certainly risen on the first occasion, and from the desertion of the auxiliary Coptic battalions (who after the success of the Vizir concealed themselves almost to a man*), many of them would have had arms; but whether his force was strong enough to have opposed his exterior, and kept in subjection the interior enemies, is a question which must now resolve itself on that estimate of strength which may be attributed to a concentrated force of ten thousand picked men, provided with a powerful field artillery, and a considerable cavalry (having the advantage of strong works, in acting against which the assailants must be divided by a broad river), when opposed to enemies thus separated, whose total force did not exceed four thousand five hundred Europeans, and twenty-five thousand Turks, provided with a very feeble field artillery, and a still weaker battering train.

To resolve the third subject of enquiry, the discontented state of General Belliard's garrison must be placed against its efficiency, which makes his a peculiar case; and the last must rest on the degree of importance attached to the preservation of Alexandria to France, and how far the surrender of Cairo, even with the advantages of the delay in the evacuation, accelerated the fall of that fortress.

The French council of war which deliberated on the measure afterwards adopted, was composed of eight generals, four

* The Vizir maintained a constant correspondence with the chiefs of these corps.

of whom, Robin, Lagrange, Duranton, and Bron, voted against the surrender; the chéfs des brigades were then called in, when a majority of voices decided for it. But Dupas, who commanded the citadel, positively refused to give it up, declaring that he had orders from General Menou to defend that fort to the last extremity, and that his opinion also coincided with his duty; nor would he, till after repeated injunctions, submit to the orders of General Belliard. General Menou, in sending thus private instruction to Dupas, seemed to anticipate and disapprove of the decision of the council of war; indeed, his orders afterwards respecting the surrender were very severe; but, interested as he was in the event, his opinion must be received with caution.

General Regnier justifies the surrender on the previous grounds, adding, that there was a scarcity of ammunition, each gun having only one hundred and fifty rounds: an argument by no means just, for in all moral probability, a third only of those guns would have been in action, as the points attacked could not have employed the service of more; and as 100,000 pounds of powder were found, independent of what was carried away by the garrison, this cannot be admitted as a plea even for deliberation as to the sufficiency.

He also represents a scarcity of provisions: the magazines were on the contrary amply provided until the rising of the Nile, and if they were not, he criminates indeed his friend, who had for so long a time an abundant country open to him, and yet did not secure a sufficient subsistence; for however he might have predetermined on the surrender, still he should have been prepared in every possible way for his defence, since contingencies might always occur to change the face of existing circumstances. General Belliard's case is indeed very hard, when he has thus to defend himself from friends as well as enemies.

On

On the 14th of July General Hutchinson presented the officers of each English regiment with a puncheon of Sicilian wine, which proved a most agreeable donation to them, for many had not tasted a drop of any kind since leaving Alexandria; never, indeed, had an army before been so abstemious, and consequently so well conducted.

On the 15th, at day-break, the French totally evacuated Giza, and with the allied army began their march for Rosetta. The Turks preceded, the British army followed; then the French, with flanking parties of their own cavalry on their left, and the English cavalry, with two beydoms of Mamelukes, closed the rear. The Nile was covered with dgerms, the French using for their sick and baggage three hundred. The immense quantity of vessels, the variety of colours, &c. rendered the scene extremely picturesque, and was undoubtedly the handsomest sight altogether witnessed in Egypt.

General Hutchinson remained at Cairo, not only being ill, but wishing to settle the arrangements for the government of Egypt, and reinstate the Mamelukes, as he was by treaty bound to effect. General Craddock being extremely unwell also, was obliged to stop at Giza, and the command of the army devolved on General Moore.

This march was perhaps the most extraordinary ever made. The variety of nations which composed the armies, with all the relative circumstances, rendered it peculiarly important and interesting.

The Captain Pacha had been reinforced from the Vizir's army by fifteen hundred Arnauts, who engaged to proceed as far as Rosetta. The 30th had joined the main army, being replaced by the 86th, who remained under Colonel Stuart's orders. The detachment of the 86th there being only one hundred and sixty rank and file, and fifty of the company's artillery originally embarked, but whom General Regnier augments into General Baird's

Baird's army, sailed with Admiral Blanket (on his application for this force to attack Suez, in order to interrupt any establishment of the French) from Bombay on the 28th of December, 1800. In the middle of January the admiral reached Moka, where he remained two days to get provisions, and arrived at Jedda in the beginning of February, from whence his squadron were near three months attempting to beat up to Suez, where they could not arrive until the latter end of April, when they occupied that town, the French having evacuated the place about the 13th of the same month, in consequence of the events which had occurred on the Mediterranean shores. Whilst on board ship a fever had broke out, and carried off many soldiers and sailors.

After the success of the English at Rhamanieh, and the advance of the Vizir, Colonel Loyd, who commanded the detachment, had so often expressed an anxiety to share in the dangers and honours of the army, that General Hutchinson consented to his passing the Desert, particularly as at the siege of Cairo, then supposed certain to be undertaken, the assistance even of such a number was a desirable object.

At six o'clock in the evening of the 7th of June Colonel Loyd began his march, with an allowance of only three pints of water per man for forty-eight hours, and from the leaky state of the skins, even that quantity could not be ensured. Arab Sheiks were the guides whom the Vizir had furnished, and made responsible for the safe passage of the detachment. The distance from Suez to Cairo is in a straight line not more than fifty-eight miles; but the conductors, fearing that the French might endeavour to intercept the detachment, had informed Colonel Loyd that a detour of ten or twelve miles would be necessary. The day had been very sultry, thermometer 109, which heat as night drew on diminished to 94. Before nine o'clock three officers, Captain Cuyler, and Lieutenants Morse and Goodfellow,

ow, were taken so ill as to be unable to proceed. At eleven o'clock, after a march of twelve miles, Colonel Loyd halted for two hours, when, as the thermometer fell to 86, the troops moved again, and continued marching till seven o'clock in the morning. The day then became so intolerably hot, that Colonel Loyd, contrary to his first intention, on account of the trouble and exertion necessary to load and unload the camels, ordered tents to be pitched, that the men till evening might find shelter from the sun. Twenty-six miles of the journey were calculated to be passed, which made this rest not altogether to be regretted.

At ten o'clock A. M. the guides came to Colonel Loyd, and acquainted him that the troops should immediately advance, as the day threatened to be extremely hot, and if the camels rested on the sand, their limbs would soon be debilitated by the heat, and that they would require water before they could move again; whereas, if kept advancing, they would neither be affected by the burning ground, or the heat of the atmosphere, in so fatal a degree; adding also, that they suspected the camel drivers might steal the water when the soldiers were asleep, which they feared from the state of the skins would now be found scarcely sufficient.

These arguments, and a reflection that the guides being responsible for the march should have their wishes as much as possible complied with, determined Colonel Loyd to proceed. The tents were therefore struck, and at eleven o'clock A. M. the march recommenced, thermometer then 109. Captain Cuyler, who had previously joined in a very feeble state, soon fainted again, and fell from his horse. A camel with two men were left to bring him on.

About one o'clock Colonel Loyd finding the men were dropping fast in the rear, halted the detachment, and with the wish

wish of affording relief to the fatigue and sufferings of the soldiers, cut off from the camels his own baggage, which example was followed by all the officers. As many men as could be carried were then mounted on the camels, and the whole proceeded. At two o'clock the thermometer rose to 116, and at that time a camseen or south wind began to blow. The dreadful sensation of the atmosphere when the wind is in that quarter, has previously been described, and here its effects were felt aggravated with every horror. Colonel Loyd persevered till 4 o'clock P. M. when the situation of the detachment obliged him to stop. Many officers and soldiers were seized with giddiness and loss of sight, whilst others fell down gasping for breath, and calling out for drink.

On examining the skins, it was found that the sun had cracked them, so that they leaked considerably, and the water remaining had become a puddle of a very thick consistence, and full of maggots. Necessity, however, required that this wretched drink should be distributed, and which the men swallowed with avidity. Vomiting and violent pains in the bowels were the immediate consequences. Colonel Loyd finding this, directed that no more should be served.

The officers had brought with them a certain proportion of Madeira wine, which they now divided amongst the soldiers; some spirits were mixed with the remaining water, and each man had his proportion poured into his own canteen. The whole were then warned that every drop was in their possession, that half the journey had not been performed, and that on their own prudence must depend whether or not they should be enabled to accomplish the rest.

The residue of spirits was spilt on the ground, as Colonel Loyd dreaded that such temptation might produce fatal consequences.

These

These arrangements occupied the time till past six o'clock, when the wind died away, and as the sun declined, the air became more temperate. Colonel Loyd supposes that the thermometer (he had unfortunately lost his own when the baggage was cut away) must have risen in the course of the afternoon to 140.

The wine had considerably refreshed every body, yet still a languor pervaded the whole. At seven o'clock the order for marching was given. Seventeen men, unable to travel even on the backs of camels, were necessarily left on the ground, and with them camels, that they might follow in two hours.

After a march of six miles (in which several officers and men, also Colonel Loyd, felt the extraordinary sensation of seeing horses, camels, and all kinds of animals constantly moving with the rapidest transition before them, which false perception they could not correct), at eleven o'clock at night the detachment again halted. The night was excessively dark, and every one so fatigued, that inconquerable sleep seized upon all, during which the Arabs contrived to steal, amongst other things, a trunk, containing money. At four o'clock in the morning the guides awoke Colonel Loyd, and the soldiers formed with difficulty into order of march, as a very heavy dew having fallen during the night, their limbs were so benumbed with cold that they could scarcely move. The seventeen men had not joined; but as the soldiers complained of great drought, and thirty miles of Desert still separated them from the springs, Colonel Loyd did not think it adviseable to lose the advantage of a cool morning by waiting for that party. The camseen began again at the same hour as the day before; the soldiers were not, however, affected in the same severe degree. By great perseverance, notwithstanding the intreaties of many to stop, Colonel Loyd, between four and five o'clock

in

in the evening of the same day, reached the springs of El-hanka, and the joy of the people was naturally very great; there had been some stragglers, but by eight o'clock all the camels came up, and during the night, the men who from giddiness had fallen from off their backs joined.

The soldiers were not guilty of the excess in drinking water at the springs, which it was feared would have been the case, but two officers horses breaking loose, ran to the wells, and drank till they died on the spot. What must have been the sufferings of these animals, deprived of food and water from the evening of the 6th till the evening of the 8th, during the greatest part of which time the lungs only inflated fiery air? No man had either tasted a morsel of any thing after quitting Suez, but food would rather have increased the drought, and under this idea all the rations of salt pork were thrown away the first morning. It was impossible to have brought fresh meat, as none could be procured at Suez, or would any have kept three hours on the march.

The course of the first forty miles had been N. N. W. over a hard sand, and the last thirty N. W. by W. of which the first ten was over rising ground, and the last twenty in a very deep heavy sand. During the whole march, no vegetation whatsoever, bird or beast, had been seen.

During the day of the 9th of June eight of the seventeen men left behind joined, but the remainder never have been heard of. As Cairo was only twelve miles distant, Colonel Loyd halted till dark at the springs, not presuming with so small a force to risk discovery. After marching all night, about eleven o'clock A. M. on the 10th of June he joined the Grand Vizir's army encamped at Chobra, and pitched his tents with Colonel Stuart's division.

Never were soldiers in a more pitiable condition; for in consequence

sequence of the plague, they had been obliged to burn all their uniforms, and on their march had lost their knapsacks, &c. but being uncommonly fine men, their appearance excited great interest. Captain Cuyler, who had got safe back to Suez, joined on the 16th of June, also Lieutenants Morse and Goodfellow; they had passed the Desert with a caravan proceeding into the interior.

On the 14th of July the 86th and four companies of the 89th occupied the Fort Ibrahim Bey. On the 15th the remainder of the 89th evacuated the citadel, and took possession of Giza. On the 16th Lieutenant Budgin arrived from General Baird, with the intelligence of his having reached Cunei with a division of his army.

General Baird had sailed from India in the latter end of the month of December, with the view of co-operating with the army from Europe destined to invade Egypt, and a division of troops from the Cape were ordered to join him in the Red Sea. His object was to land at Suez, and act according to those circumstances he should become acquainted with there, since at such a distance no positive operations could have been prescribed. The hope was, however, always entertained that he would arrive in time to assist the European army even in debarkation, by dividing the French force. Unfortunately, the monsoon had commenced before his entrance into the Red Sea, in the month of April, and it was found impossible to gain his destination; but learning at Jedda the successes of the English on the 21st of March, which intelligence had been transmitted to him by Admiral Blanket,* he determined to

* A constant communication had been maintained with Admiral Blanket, and a naval officer twice passed from Lord Keith to Suez. The first letter written by the admiral to Sir Ralph Abercrombie, but which General Hutchinson received at Rosetta, was in cyphers, the key of which was lost, and therefore could not be translated.

land at Cossir, and brave the difficulties of the Desert, in the hopes of affording a considerable support to General Hutchinson, and contributing to the final conquest of the country.

On the 8th of June he arrived at Cossir, and found Colonel Murray, the adjutant general, who had preceded him, and reached that port with a very small advanced guard on the 14th of May; but the greater part of the army was still missing, and none of the troops from the Cape had arrived. Anxious, however, to promote the general service, he employed himself in preparing the means for enabling his army to pass the Desert, in which he was assisted by the Vizir's firmans, and in a short time he saw himself provided with five thousand camels. Having made the necessary dispositions, he set out for Cunei (or Kinnéh), where he arrived on the 30th of June, and immediately arranged the march of the remaining divisions, facilitating their passage by establishing posts at the different wells in the Desert, and digging others; issuing at the same time the orders to be seen in the Appendix of this work for the regulation of the march of each succeeding column. It was not till the latter end of July that his army had assembled, and even then several detachments were missing: the collected force, including the troops from the Cape, amounted to 5226 rank and file, and was composed of the following regiments and corps:

Royal artillery.
Bengal horse artillery.
Bengal foot ditto.
Madras ditto.
Bombay ditto.
Royal Engineers.
Bengal ditto }
Madras ditto } No men.
Bombay ditto }

Madras

Madras Pioneers.
His Majesty's 8th light dragoons.
10th foot.
6th ditto.
80th ditto.
86th ditto.
88th ditto.
Bengal Volunteers, Native Infantry.
1st Bombay regiment, ditto.
7th ditto, ditto.

The respective quota furnished by the different establishments to which these corps belonged, is thus to be divided :

	Men.
East India Company's artillery, &c. -	448
Ditto ditto native troops - -	1940
King's troops - - - -	2838
	5226

To which must be added 271 officers, of which 53 were natives.
331 Serjeants.
125 Drummers.
440 Lascars.
276 Servants not soldiers.
572 Public followers.
305 Private ditto.

2320

Which makes a general total of 7546 persons, including sick, &c.

As the march across the Desert, which separates Egypt from the

the Red Sea, must offer peculiar interest to those who peruse the detail, with their attention at the same time directed to India, an account chiefly furnished by Colonel Carruthers of the 61st follows, which it was thought better to insert here, that the ideas might not be interrupted, and particularly as no event of moment occurred to General Moore's army during the period which this narrative, in some degree, too soon introduces.

The effective force ordered from the Cape to Egypt was to consist of about twelve hundred men.

The 61st regiment, a troop of the 8th light dragoons dismounted, and a company of English artillery, formed this strength.

Sir Home Popham, with the Romney and Sensible, sailed from the Cape on the 28th of February, 1801, having on board the two flank companies, and one battalion company of the 61st, the dismounted troop of the 8th, and a company of artillery.

The remaining seven companies of the 61st did not leave the Cape until the 30th of March, in consequence of the jail fever having broke out in the ships Sheerness and Wilhelmina, which brought out the 68th regiment, composed chiefly of boys, and which distemper carried off a great number of them, as well as of the sailors. The admiral, Sir R. Curtis, apprehensive of contagion, would not allow fresh troops to be embarked in these ships until they had been properly fumigated and cleared out, the good effects of which precaution the 61st experienced, as they landed at Cossir on the 10th of July, then having been near sixteen weeks on board, without having one sick man, although the strength of the regiment exceeded nine hundred men. At Cossir was found the Sensible, which had arrived near three weeks. The troops were disembarked, and encamped with part of the army from India, and with whom they had originally been destined to co-operate.

At

At Cossir the heat was very intense, the thermometer 96 and upwards; the water very bad, being impregnated with a saltpetre taste, causing violent vomiting and a species of dysentery, with excessive thirst.

This complaint almost every one on first landing was attacked with, but it did not prove fatal, and indeed was thought rather eventually to render service. General Baird had arrived from Jedda with Sir Home Popham at Cossir about three weeks before, had crossed the Desert, and was at this time at Kinnéh, awaiting the arrival of his army, of which a great part had not yet made their way up the Red Sea.

The 20th of July Colonel Carruthers left Cossir with a division of six hundred men of the 61st. Camels were appointed for the baggage and provisions, from those bought by General Baird; but when water at night was not to be had, camels from the last wells accompanied with it, and then returned again the next day to their post.

The three first days march the troops passed in a ravine, which seemed to be the old bed of a river, and which commenced a little way from Cossir, and terminated at Moilah. At Moilah and also Legaitta were posts of seapoys, which General Baird had stationed, and depôts of provisions, from whence the troops in passing were supplied with sheep and biscuits. The wells, excepting two or three which the Arabs had formed, had been dug by the seapoys, these were not deep. The soil was clayish, the water brackish, yet had not the effect of that at Cossir.

Although the troops marched by night, on account of the diminution of heat, as during the day the thermometer rose to 110 and 115 degrees, still they suffered greatly from thirst; for unless the frequent inclination to drinking was resisted, however painful the effort, it was soon ascertained that the

indul-

indulgence but augmented the desire. Water alone, or infused with a little vinegar, was found the best allayer of thirst; a very small quantity taken at a time, and kept as long as possible in the mouth, only occasionally wetting the throat, afforded the greatest relief.

The men suffered also considerably from an almost irresistible oppression of sleep, which might be accounted for from the heat, slowness of the marching, and its duration, generally eight or ten hours being required to perform the allotted distances; for although the route from Cossir to Kinnéh is stated at only one hundred and twenty miles, there cannot be a doubt but that the actual extent exceeds that calculation considerably.

From Moilah to Barimba the Desert was generally of a very hard gravelly soil, with a very uneven surface. The route of the march continued in ravines, but which preserved no longer the appearance of any river having ever flowed in them.

Every where the cannon passed with facility, the principal part of which was drawn by bullocks, brought with the army from India.

Barimba, or Bahconra, is the first habitable spot which is to be met with after leaving Cossir; not even the smallest hut had been previously seen. This little town lies on the borders of the Desert, and is rated at ten miles distance from Kinnéh, yet in fact it is nearer twenty. Here the Arabs sold milk, eggs, and poultry, in great plenty, and very cheap.

On the 29th of July Colonel Carruthers arrived at Kinnéh, with the loss only of one drum boy, which good fortune must be attributed to the positive orders given to the officer commanding the rear guard not to allow of any man's stopping behind, to ensure which necessary regulation, camels were left with his party to bring on those who might fall sick. The soldiers, notwithstanding they knew their imprudence must be dreadfully fatal

fatal to them, often attempted to conceal themselves on the march, that they might lie down and sleep.

Altogether many men were lost in this miserable way, for miserable indeed must have been the manner of their deaths, and horrible the sufferings they experienced previous to their dissolution.

The route of the army from Cossir to Kinnéh was thus prescribed.

Cossir to the new wells	11 miles,	water.
Half way to Moilah	17	no water.
Arabs post called Moilah	17	provisions and water.
Advanced wells	9	water.
Half way to Legaitta	19	no water.
Arabs post called Legaitta	19	provisions and water.
Barimba	18	water.
Kinnéh	10	the Nile.
	120*	

An important observation must be added, that there is good reason to believe water may be obtained in any part of the Desert, and that it is in such quantities as to ensure a constant supply to the wells; for when drank perfectly dry, in twelve hours they were replenished again.

The troops from India brought muskatts or leather bags to contain the water in, which perished, and frequently occasioned much distress. Water kegs or barrels alone were found to resist the heat. With the Turkish army these muskatts, or rather a pig's skin sewed together, were used, and proved of vast service. Being constantly dipped in the Nile, they were

* A dromedary can pass this distance in twenty-four hours, but thirty-six is the general time taken.

kept

kept always wet, which preserved them. When the English army was on its march to Cairo, the soldiers were frequently suffering the most extreme thirst, whilst the Turks had always abundance of water, as to each company was a water carrier, who affixed one of these skins on each side of a horse, and every man as he passed helped himself. Indeed this was the best arranged and conducted department in the Turkish service.

General Hutchinson found himself compelled to order General Baird to proceed to Cairo, although he much wished to have allowed of his re-embarkation with his army, as there were other very important objects for that body of troops to be employed on; but since it appeared evident from Admiral Gantheaume's near approach to Alexandria, that the French government were making strong efforts to throw succours into Egypt, and as the country was not yet absolutely conquered, these with some confidential reasons determined him in the opinion that he was not authorised to run any risk, by dispensing with such a powerful force, sent expressly to aid him; Lieutenant Budgin was therefore sent back with these instructions.

General Hutchinson remained in the house of Rosetti, the Imperial Consul, at Cairo, and anxiously endeavoured to protect those whom his country's faith was pledged to support. Morad Bey's widow had been turned out of her residence by some Turkish chieftain, and even Ibrahim Bey could not get admittance into his own. The general immediately insisted on their being put in undisturbed possession, and not only succeeded in that demand, but obtained an unequivocal firman, declaring that the Mamelukes should be reinstated in all their rights and dignities. He avowed at the same time, that it was not either his wish, or that of his government, to encourage rebellion against the Porte, and therefore stipulated that the Beys should pay their tribute regularly, and that the

Turkish

Turkish Pacha should no longer be kept as an honorary prisoner, but command a body of troops sufficient to make his authority respectable.

This Magna Charta had been definitively signed, after much communication and firmness displayed by the general; still the Mamelukes remained in the island of Rhoda, and refused to enter the town of Cairo, dreading treachery whilst the Turks continued there in such force.

General Moore's army and the French had proceeded quietly towards Rosetta, encamping each night in the order they marched; but on taking up the ground, the French always formed three sides of a square on the banks of the Nile, placing their artillery and baggage in the centre.

Their mode of marching was extremely irregular and straggling, whilst the British troops preserved the most correct order, exciting the admiration of the French officers. Indeed, the arrangement of the march was highly creditable to General Moore, and the oldest officers present of the French army declared, that it was throughout a most beautiful disposition and movement.

At Déroute the French passed the English, in order to be ready for the embarkation. The real effective state of their army was then ascertained, as the principal English officers posted themselves at a narrow pass to see them file by. They could scarcely, however, credit their own sight, when they beheld an army of above ten thousand men, with fifty pieces of artillery and its complement of ammunition, defile before them, independent of the guards, &c. in the dgerms. It was now that, connecting this unexpected formidable power with the rising of the Nile, which at this time began to reach the top of its banks, the true importance of the capitulation was acknowledged.

Nor could those in command restrain themselves from confessing

fessing that the ignorance of the enemy's force had saved them many anxious nights; for the calculation of security was to be formed on the strength which could command it, not in the faith of treaties and honourable confidence. The maxim of war is positive, *in inimicis nulla fides*.

Amongst the French troops was the detachment of dromedaries, which had escaped into Giza; they did not chuse to risk a sortie, and indeed were very glad to be included in the capitulation, although their commanding officer was much vexed at their refusal to attempt a return to Alexandria.

Brigadier General Oakes had been sent from Cairo, to arrange with Lord Keith the embarkation of the French. By extraordinary exertion, transports were victualled and prepared for their reception against the 31st of July.

The armies had encamped at Elhamed, within four miles of Rosetta, on the 28th, when that town soon presented a motley scene of the greatest interest and curiosity; the streets were filled with French, Turks, English, Mamelukes, &c. Horses, swords, and, notwithstanding the abolition of the slave trade, hundreds of black girls were exposed to sale by the French officers; but the traffic of females was so dull, that the French were obliged to offer with them a premium.

The poor creatures sat weeping piteously the loss of their masters, and deploring the too certain punishment they should receive from the Turks for their connexion with Christians.

The strictest order was preserved in the town; but the Arabs could not conceal their delight whenever they saw any French were marched as prisoners by the English guard for having behaved irregularly. This was a triumphant exultation, too natural to be checked altogether, yet every effort was made to render it as little offensive as possible.

On the 29th General Hutchinson, who had received at Cairo the

the letter announcing his majesty's high approbation of his conduct, and of his being decorated with the order of the Bath, arrived at Rosetta; he came in a barge, provided by the Vizir, and which was rowed the whole way by the same people, who laboured at the oar with the most astonishing perseverance; and as a constant gale of wind blows up the Nile, during the day (and for the three days the general was on the water, it was particularly violent) the exertion was surprising, and proves of what labour these people are capable. A dgerm which sailed at the same time did not arrive for twelve hours afterwards, and for the first two days the boat was considerably detained to keep her company. The general on leaving Cairo conceived that every proper arrangement had been made for the government of Egypt, consistent with the promises of his government, and the Grand Seignior's stipulations. He had secured for the Indian army its supplies, and left the Mamelukes impressed with gratitude towards him.

In the house of Rosetti he had continued during his stay, and was entertained with every attention and mark of hospitality, which that accomplished, well informed, and generous man could lavish.

Rosetti was a person endowed with very superior qualifications. It was from him that Savary, Volney, and Sonini acquired most of their information, and no one was better acquainted with the history of Egypt. A resident for many years, he became the intimate friend and counsellor of Ali Bey; and had that great man adopted latterly his advice, his fortune and fate might have been more worthy of his character. Turks, Copts, and Christians, all united in esteem for Rosetti; they considered him as their universal benefactor, and when the Vizir requested a visit from him, he was received with the most distinguished attention a Frank had ever experienced, and as he

passed through the streets, the Arabs shouted, "Praise to the Vizir who honours thus the father of the poor." Yet, with all these virtues, and a strict neutrality as to politics, he could not escape imprisonment during the government of the French.

The Grand Vizir had anxiously endeavoured to confer every honour on the general; for although the general's honest independence and faithful adherence to the word he had pledged, thwarted his views and intentions, still he could not but admire and revere the character where such virtues existed, and the instructions he received from the Porte rendered him more desirous than ever to acquire his regard. These instructions, recommending him to conciliate with and pay every deference to the English commander, had been read aloud at a public ceremony, where he was invested by the Reis Effendi with a superb diamond hilted dagger, presented by the Grand Seignior for his victory at Elhanka.

On the 31st, the first division of French marched to embark at the caravansary, that place being judged more convenient and secure than Rosetta, on account of the Boghaz.

This embarkation continued successively for ten days, with the intermission of one on account of the fatigue of the camels, their backs being also wrung into a jelly of corruption. Neither interest, humanity, nor the natural instinct with which these animals are endowed to resist in some degree the cruel oppression of man, by an obstinate refusal to rise when too heavily laden, protected these willing, patient, and useful creatures, whose goodness and utility corrected the prejudice their ugliness would otherwise have excited; 8 cwt. a camel can carry, but 6 cwt. is the proper burthen. The immense weights, and the bad construction of the saddles, constantly kept on, soon bruised the hunch on the back, which festered, and never being attended to, became a burrow for thousands of worms.

There

There was scarcely a camel in Egypt whose back was not in this state, and out of fifteen hundred, which marched from Cairo with the French army, scarce three hundred survived the journey.

The embarkation return of General Belliard's army, as given in to the English general, was as follows:

ARMY OF CAIRO.

	Number.	
Artillery, cavalry, and infantry, including officers and non-commissioned officers	10,856	
Etat major - - - - - - -	45	
Dromedary corps - - - - -	177	
Miners and sappers - - - -	150	
Invalids (only fit for garrison duty) - -	500	
Seamen - - - - - - -	344	
Horse and foot guides - - - -	40	
Sick - - - - - - - -	800	
AUXILIARIES.		
Greeks and Copts - - - - -	600	
Mamelukes - - - - - -	160	
	——	13,672
EMPLOYES.		
Mathematical school - - - -	30	
Printing press - - - - -	26	
Library and bureau central - - -	15	
Civilians - - - - - -	11	
	——	82
Grand total, exclusive of women and children		13,754

To this number must be added five hundred men, who deserted

serted on the march to join the Mamelukes. It was in vain the general endeavoured to discourage this unnatural infatuation; the soldiers refused to return.

Above a hundred of them, who had been kept at work on the bridge of Giza (which by the French not mentioning that the dgerms should be kept baled out, had nearly been destroyed), although offered to be sent to France, positively insisted on remaining in Egypt.

The motives which induced this extraordinary resolution were probably ambition, if in such worthless people, who thus *voluntarily* submitted in the hopes of future aggrandisement to degradations of the vilest nature, any noble passion could exist.

The divisions of the shipping sailed as soon as each was ready. The French were by no means pleased with the rations of salt pork, biscuit, and Marcella wine issued to them, although the quality and proportion were the same as given to the English troops: they were also excessively indignant, notwithstanding the terms of the capitulation, at not having, according to their rank, the increased allowance, forgetting that at sea a general cannot eat more than a soldier, and what difficulty there was to carry even a sufficient supply for the necessary support of the people on board. This regulation in the British service, although so just and reasonable in its principle, excited before General Desaix's resentment against Lord Keith, that general conceiving that the order was made to ridicule French equality, if not to insult him, or that if the rule was general, it should have been broken through in favour of him and his officers. He did not know that there was in England an auditor's office, and other formidable barriers to unusual public expenditures. Some of the French troops even conducted themselves so riotously, that

that at last Lord Keith was compelled to declare that he would fire into the first ship on board of which he heard a tumult, which menace preserved order afterwards.

General Belliard was offered by Captain Clarke* a passage in the cabin of the Braakel, which he very handsomely declined on account of his large suite, selecting the Duke of York transport, a remarkably large and fine vessel, to sail in.

The men of war refused to take on board the vast quantity of ammunition which the French wished to carry, and the whole was thrown into the sea. The officers who were allowed to sell their horses found a market for them; those carried to France (eighty horses and mares and one camel) were not worth much. The Egyptian horse bears but little value, and the breed of Arabia Felix is very difficult to be procured. In that country the price of a real Yemen horse, whose genealogy is certified by the sheriff of Mecca, is from five to eight hundred pounds, and there were not above two or three seen during the residence of the French in Egypt.

The baggage was enormous, which the French army transported, and some of the articles were not private property, par-

* Captain Clarke's brother came to Egypt, having made with Mr. Harvey one of the most considerable and interesting tours which travellers could accomplish. After having passed all over the continent, they proceeded by the Crimea to Constantinople; from thence they visited all the islands in the Archipelago, and remained some time examining the plains of Troy, which Mr. Clarke in opposition to Mr. Carlisle maintains exactly to correspond with Homer's description, and of which he is so convinced as to imagine that he saw the actual graves of the principal heroes slain in that war. Some Greek inscriptions, which he has brought home from thence, may probably illustrate in some degree this dispute, which it is almost to be lamented was ever agitated. After visiting every thing remarkable in Asia Minor, they arrived at Egypt; but as Cairo was not then taken, they went to Jerusalem and Acre. Returning again to Egypt, they proceeded to Cairo, with the intention of visiting Faoum and Thebes, and from thence to return home by the Morea and France. Their collection is extremely valuable, and is destined to adorn one of the colleges of Cambridge; and Mr. Clarke, from the zeal he has shewn, will no doubt give the world much information.

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ticularly the press and foundry, bridles of the horses, with the Mameluke bits; yet although General Hutchinson did not chôose to enter into a dispute about things of such little consequence, the conduct of the French, in taking them away, was not the less reprehensible.

The general's health being extremely bad, he was obliged to go on board Lord Keith's ship, in the hopes of sea air recovering him, and where he proposed to remain until the English army of Cairo joined General Coote before Alexandria.

The difference of climate between Alexandria and Cairo was immediately felt, and the change proved most agreeable. By the thermometer the temperature was reduced twelve degrees, and the fine breezes which blew from the sea, rendered the sensation still more refreshing.

General Coote's army was in remarkably high order, and of considerable strength, as the reinforcements from England had arrived in the beginning of July, consisting of the 22d dragoons, a detachment of Guards, two battalions of the 20th regiment of infantry, the 24th, 25th, and 26th, the antient Irish fencibles, drafts for several regiments, and the foreign regiments of Watteville and Chasseurs Britannique, amounting to about eighteen hundred men. The corps of Watteville was composed of Swiss, who enlisted from the disbanded regiments. They had been in British pay for two years, and had served several campaigns, when attached to the Imperial armies, with a gallantry which will long be recorded to the honour of themselves and their nation.

The latter corps was composed of the *débris* of that Condean army, which, under a prince who so nobly maintained the fame and honour of his house, a warrior inferior to none in Europe, can never be mentioned without recollections of its valour, devotion, and misfortunes.

This army had alternately been in the pay of Austria, Russia,

and

and England; but at the conclusion of the peace between France and Austria, Great Britain was constrained to disband the whole of the foreign troops in her pay on the continent. Individuals, however, of them were re-enlisted, who embarked at Trieste on the 10th of June, 1801, and arrived in Aboukir Bay the 1st of August following.

Such corps, excellently commanded, perfectly satisfied with their capitulation, the superintendance of which was entrusted to Major Byng, who succeeded in faithfully discharging the duties of his situation, and at the same time acquiring their general esteem, would have been a very valuable acquisition to England in the event of their services having been required in the field; and this benefit may now be anticipated, that a respect for the character and integrity of British engagements, will ensure from Switzerland a reinforcement on future emergencies, which certainly is the most desirable connexion from every consideration the British service could form.*

General Coote's exertions had been unremitting: he had himself every morning rode round the lines an hour before day-break, and was incessantly employed in making the most useful arrangements for the health and comfort of his troops, as well as occupied with precautions for their security, and compleating the works of their position. His mind had suffered frequently the greatest anxiety, when from the sickly state of the army he had only three thousand two hundred men fit for duty in his camp, but by his judicious directions the renovation of its strength was much accelerated.

Nothing important had occurred before Alexandria previous to the 20th of June, independent of the burning of the Iphi-

* The regiment of Rolla, chiefly composed of Swiss, formed part of the foreign brigade, which served in Egypt with such high distinction. Baron D'Huiller, one of the few of the Swiss Guards who escaped the massacre of the 10th of September, commanded it.

genie frigate, which was set on fire by accident in the road of Aboukir, and the refusal of Lord Keith to allow the members of the Institute with their suites to leave Alexandria, which refusal was grounded on the just reasoning that the reduction of subsistence for fifty people was an object of serious prejudice to the service in the circumstances Alexandria was placed in, and particularly as from this motive General Menou had refused the admittance of a company of comedians, sent expressly by the French government for the amusement of his garrison. Taken on their passage by some English cruizers, Lord Keith wished to forward them to their destination; but General Menou perversely rejected the reinforcement, so *considerately* and *patriotically* furnished by the Consuls of France, to make a *divértissement éclatant.*

On the 20th of June the French, with the view of covering the eastern front of their position, had made a cut on the canal of Alexandria, in front of the Green Hill, that the waters of the inundation might flow into the plain.

General Coote fearing the consequent inlet of water would extend over the flat nearly to the sea, and thus contract the front for operation against Alexandria, determined to counteract the object if possible, and therefore in the night of the 23d commenced, in the deepest hollow of the plain, the construction of a dam, parallel with the canal of Alexandria, and the extremities of which rested on the high ground.

The French did not attack, although they heard the workmen; yet General Coote, fearing to draw on a cannonade, withdrew the party at day-light. This labour continued near a month, a battalion being every night employed on the duty; and General Coote had the satisfaction to find, that notwithstanding the French opened another cut, the inundation was completely checked, as against the dam the water found its level

level with the lake. The dam was one hundred and fifty yards in length, in breadth six, its foundation eighteen feet, and superior sides eight.

The idea of the dam was very judicious, and the excellent construction does great honour to Colonel Duncan and the officers of engineers employed.

The entrenched camp presented a much more pleasing appearance than any part of Egypt which had been seen; the huts of the officers, particularly in the camp of the Guards, would not have disgraced a more civilized country. The new sea astonished those who now for the first time beheld the inundation. An immeasurable extent of salt water was an imposing sight, where only a few weeks before not a drop was on the ground.

On the 7th instant the whole of the French were embarked, and in the evening a French hussar deserted from Alexandria, who shewed an order, in which General Menou encouraged his garrison to defend themselves to the last. He confirmed the intelligence that there was no want of fresh meat, as the Arabs brought always a daily supply.

The same day the French paymaster general of the Cairo army having obtained leave from General Belliard and General Hutchinson, went with a flag of truce to the out-posts, in the hopes of being admitted into Alexandria. General Menou, notwithstanding this was one of his greatest friends, positively refused, and declared that no communication should be had but by sea: however, reflection for twenty-four hours changed that resolve, and General Menou sent in to express his readiness to receive him. The message was too late; he was embarked again, and then sailing.

Madame Menou had been sent in by a cartel several days before,

before, and also General Menou's son, a very fine boy of about three years old.

General Menou had been made acquainted with the surrender of Cairo on the 7th of July. This intelligence he received with the greatest vexation, as he wished General Belliard to have held out on three probable chances of relief. First, the landing of the succours, which Admiral Gantheaume was endeavouring to throw in, might have changed the aspect of affairs. It is true, the Heliopolis corvette had announced on the 19th of May that the French fleet had been within thirty leagues of the coast, when a convoy was seen passing, which the French admiral mistaking for the English fleet, cut his cables, and bore away, but his return might still be expected. Secondly, the negociations for peace were known to be commenced, and a favourable issue expected to them. Thirdly, the rising of the Nile was a guarantee, that beyond a certain period the siege could not be carried on.

In his general orders he animadverted severely on the capitulation, and declared that he was resolved to bury himself in the ruins of Alexandria, a pledge not however when made in the French language to be understood literally, and which (although animated to the same devotion by the declaration that the army of Egypt knows how to fight, but never would learn to surrender) the soldiers on the out-posts excused to those who commented on the words as a mere *façon de parler*.

General Doyle's brigade marched into camp on the 9th of August. On the 11th General Hope's arrived, and on the 13th General Moore with the reserve. These troops had been obliged, on account of the rising of the Nile, to approach nearer to Rosetta previous to their march for Alexandria, the whole country in their front being nearly inundated. The river

river had then risen upwards of thirty feet. On the 11th three deserters came in, and on the 13th the Turkish and English gun-boats, which had with much difficulty worked through Lake Maadie, and passed into the inundation, to the number of twenty-six, sailed to attack the French boats, which were anchored in Lake Mariotis, they having been dragged across the isthmus from the harbour; but the French avoided an action, and drawing up close to the shore, the allied boats anchored in a semicircle round them. Colonel Anstruther and Captain Brice proceeded in a small boat, and landed under the heights near Marabou, which islet they reconnoitred.

On the 15th General Hutchinson arrived, having determined immediately to besiege Alexandria on the eastern and western fronts, an army of sixteen thousand effective men being under his command. There had been no possibility to begin sooner, for all the boats had been occupied in embarking the French; and as both the corps to the eastward and westward were to depend on the fleet for daily supplies, two such important objects required their whole service.

The general had intended to make the first movements in the night of the 15th, but when the boats came to rendezvous, the report was made that they had mistaken the orders, not charging themselves with provisions, and as there was not a supply for three days in the magazine, they were obliged to return to the fleet.

On the evening of the 16th, the boats having assembled in the inundation immediately on the left of the position, the division of the army under Major General Coote, composed of the Guards, commanded by Major General Lord Cavan; the 25th, two battalions of the 27th and 44th regiments, under Major General Ludlow; the 26th, two battalions of the 54th, under Major General Finch, with one hundred of the

the 26th dragoons, in all about four thousand men, embarked and sailed.*

The same evening, in order to make a diversion in favour of General Coote, and gain ground necessary for the progress of the siege against the eastern front, General Craddock was directed to order the 50th, 92d, and 30th to be in readiness at day-break the next morning, and General Moore was also ordered with a corps of light troops to act on the right.

The instructions of the left column were to storm the Green Hill, on the right of the French line, and of the right to occupy the Nole Hill, about a quarter of a mile in front of the French left, for the object of reconnoitring. At day dawn General Doyle (who although very ill at Rosetta when notice of this movement was sent to him, had notwithstanding mounted his horse, and arrived to take the command of his brigade,) moved forwards; the 30th regiment directing itself against the advanced work on the left of the Green Hill, the 50th to that on the right, and the 92d had orders to remain in reserve at an intermediate point at the base of the hill.

Very little opposition was made, and the troops took possession of the works, which proved open batteries, the artillery of which had been previously removed.

General Moore had also advanced on the right, and occupied with the Lowenstein Chasseurs the Nole Hill, from whence he and Captain Brice reconnoitred. The resistance he had met with was also trifling, although the French were on the

* When the Guards went to the westward, they very handsomely waved some of their privileges, which might have rendered the service more complex. These privileges, which form the constitution of the Guards, from not being generally known, and having no written documents, several times during the war have occasioned uncertainties. It is much to be lamented, that all exceptions to the general service should not be publicly certified, for the information of every officer in the army.

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alerte during the night, from a cannonade which was kept up from the Pharos against some English boats standing in close to the harbour.

As soon, however, as the French found their picquets attacked, fearing a general assault, they beat to arms, and immediately began a heavy fire from their works, which continued without intermission three hours. The troops being covered by the inequalities of the ground, little execution was done.

General Moore having completed his object, and finding the Nole Hill too advanced to be maintained, and several of the yagers wounded, withdrew some way, when the French immediately reoccupied the hill.

At seven o'clock a body of French, to the amount of six hundred, unexpectedly appeared on the right of their position, whence they advanced rapidly against the Green Hill, and the post particularly possessed by the 30th. That regiment had been ordered, from the anticipation of the cannonade, to shelter themselves in the ditches of the works, and behind the ridges of the hills.

They were laying thus scattered when the French had began to ascend, supported by a heavy fire of shells, round and grape shot, from all the batteries. The assembly was beat; seven companies, in number one hundred and seventy rank and file, were collected, who at the representation of Colonel Lockart to Colonel Spencer, present at the moment, instantly charged with the bayonet the French, who had now nearly gained the summit, and completely routed them. Ten prisoners were made in the pursuit, and above one hundred men killed or wounded. The 30th lost twenty-eight men, and would have suffered much more, if Colonel Lockart had not succeeded in drawing off his people; as a rear body of the French, when

they

they found their column broken, commenced a sharp scattered fire.

This gallant effort was witnessed by the whole army with delight, and certainly redounds much to the honour of Colonel Lockart and the corps. Captain Grey deserves also particular mention, for animating the men with the wish to use the bayonet. Had the 30th (confusedly assembled together) depended on their fire, they must have been overpowered, nor could the regiments in the rear have arrived in time to support them. This instance should be remembered as another example of what the bayonet, in a British soldier's hands, can effect.

General Regnier represents this affair as a body of four hundred French charging six thousand English; but General Regnier's statements are all similar as to correctness, varying only in the different shades of grotesque and malevolence.

General Menou seeing this attempt baffled, abandoned the design of recovering the hill, and maintained for the rest of the day a partial cannonade.

General Coote had wished to disembark between Marabou and Alexandria, but perceiving a corps of the enemy on that part of the isthmus, he left opposite to them General Finch's brigade, to make a feint, whilst he stood on with the remainder about three miles farther, where, without any opposition, he landed.

This judicious disposition probably saved many lives, which otherwise might have been uselessly lost, since one piece of cannon alone opposed to him, might, from the commanding elevation of the ground above the shore, have done great mischief.

A position was immediately taken up to cover the siege of Marabou; on digging, excellent water was found, nor was there any necessity to turn up more than a spit of earth.

In

In the evening the French seeing the allied gun-boats getting under weigh to attack them, abandoned their flotilla, yet hoped to make fire vessels of their boats; however, none which blew up did any damage, except one which some Turks attempted to board. Her ammunition exploded at the moment they entered, by which accident four or five Turks were severely wounded: the fire was extinguished from five others, and two of the boats saved were, the beautiful cutter of the L'Egyptienne, and a dgerm, handsomely trimmed and coppered. The former is now in the Thames.

In the night of the 17th the first parallel was begun on the eastern front of the enemy's position, about twelve hundred yards distant from the English lines. There was no wish to advance this parallel nearer, it being intended only as a connecting post of communication between the original camp and whatever new works might be constructed, since without this intermediate entrenchment the duty of the army would have been too severe; for the troops could not leave their original ground of encampment, and descend into the plain without much inconvenience, as the transport of provisions and stores from the depôt was still chiefly done by men; General Hutchinson having found himself obliged to order away two regiments of dragoons, the field artillery, as well as all the camels, horses, and jack-asses to Rosetta, on account of the difficulty of procuring forage, since all the boats were required to convey subsistence for the armies.*

The parallel was therefore not thrown entirely across the

* These jack-asses were removed, to the great joy of every one but their proprietors. The serenade of at least a thousand such voices, continuing incessantly during the night, was not desirable, when little sleep could otherwise have been obtained. Vexatious as the melody was, still there was something ludicrous in such a concert, in which occasionally all the other numerous animals, both birds and beasts, joined.

 plain,

plain, only extended about one hundred and fifty yards from the sea. On the flanks were enclosed redoubts, which might have been defended until the arrival of support. On the Green Hill batteries were raised against the French right, the laying open of which was a considerable object; but as this post was so distant from the English position (the left as has always been described receding very much), a battalion was ordered to encamp at the back of the hill, with its right upon the newly constructed dam.

In the night of the 18th General Coote having, with the unremitting exertions of the officers of artillery, established two batteries, with mortars, and three 24 pounders in them, against Fort Marabou, directed the bombardment to commence. The celerity with which the guns had been brought up was a remarkable effort of zeal, as they had to be carried over almost inaccessible rocks, in which vast quarries were hewn out, as is supposed, for the building of the ancient Alexandria.

The breadth of the isthmus, from the lake to Marabou, is about half a mile: the islet of Marabou is situated at the western extremity of the harbour, and, commanding one of the channels, is separated from the continent by a reef of rocks of a hundred and fifty yards in extent, which, except directly in the centre, is fordable.

The French had constructed a very strong regular fort on this islet round a tower, formerly a mosque; but the length of the islet not being above three hundred yards, and its breadth a hundred and fifty, shot could sweep over the whole. The fleet anchored off, and some frigates and Turkish corvettes occasionally cannonaded the works. The flank company of the 54th was judiciously posted on a projecting rock, from whence they kept up such a heavy fire of musquetry, that the French were obliged to fly from their guns, and hide themselves in the sheltering

tering crevices the sides of the island afforded. Three French gun-boats were anchored under the castle of Marabou, two were sunk, and one escaped; on board of one the surgeon was killed, and his assistant lost both his legs. The medicine chest, with a good many dollars, floating on shore, became a prize to the 54th.

On the 19th the Captain Pacha sailed to the westward; his boat was very nearly struck by the French batteries, which now attacked every vessel as she passed, and all were obliged to come considerably within their range; for as the wind constantly blew north-west, boats were necessarily compelled to keep well in shore, or if driven to leeward, many hours would have been consumed in beating up again.

On the night of the 20th the French took up the buoys, or channel marks, which had been laid down by the English men of war's boats the day before, when they succeeded in ascertaining the channel.

About twelve o'clock in the day of the 20th the tower of Marabou fell. Towards evening Captain Cochrane, with two English men of war brigs and five Turkish corvettes in succession, boldly stood into the harbour of Alexandria, and anchored on the left of the army. A French corvette, which had been cruizing about the whole day with the object of assisting the garrison of Marabou, retired directly into the inner harbour.

As the fall of the tower might be supposed probably to have filled up the ditch of the fort, and in that case rendered an assault practicable, four companies of the 54th were ordered to be in readiness for that service; at the same time General Coote, wishing to spare the effusion of blood, sent Colonel Duncan with the summons to the French commandant, who at first hesitated to capitulate; but on Colonel Duncan's representing to him the certain fate which awaited his garrison, if he refused

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to surrender, and particularly as he could not regularly defend the place, having been necessitated so long to abandon his guns, he at last consented.

The fort, when taken possession of, was found in ruins, the tower had filled up one ditch, yet still the assault would have been difficult, for another deep ditch crossed the islet, and the works were very strong. The number of cannon taken in the place amounted to ten pieces, all of which were indented with the musquetry of the 54th. The number of prisoners was one hundred and sixty-eight.

In the night of the 21st a naval officer went in a boat, and landed by the bridge nearest Alexandria, with the object of sounding the canal, which he effected, finding four feet of salt water. The enemy's picquet discovering him, he was obliged to hurry off, but standing on to the eastward, about a mile and a half, he relanded, and sounded again the canal, finding the same depth as before.

On the morning of the 22d General Coote, resolving not to relax a moment, and allow the enemy to fortify still more the isthmus, advanced from Marabou against the position occupied by a corps of twelve hundred men, under the orders of General Eppler. His line ran in a high ridge of sand hills, immediately in rear of the canal, which originally joined the sea and Lake Mareotis. His right was defended by four pieces of cannon; and two batteries, with iron 18 pounders in them, protected the left. In the commanding heights above his line were placed several field pieces, and the front of the position was not more than two hundred yards.

General Coote divided his army into three lines, marching in three columns of half brigades; the right column moved along the flat between the lake and ridge of hills, the centre was directed through the hills, and General Ludlow's brigade marched

marched on the left on the flat near the harbour. The first battalion of the 27th and a detachment of Lowenstein's Chasseurs, under Major Pepongay (which had arrived during the night), with two hundred of the Guards, commanded by Colonel Jolliffe, formed the advanced guard. Immediately followed the six field pieces, commanded by Major Cookson (who so justly received the thanks of General Coote for the whole of his service to the westward), and the dragoons marched in rear of the left. Captain Stevenson commanded the gun-boats in the lake, Captain Cochrane those in the harbour.

General Coote had intended to move at day-break, that the enemy might be surprised, and their batteries carried with little loss; but the artillery horses were too fatigued to be ready so soon, and six o'clock passed before the movement began. The advanced guard almost immediately fell in with the picquets, when a scattered fire of musquetry commenced on each side. A Turkish corvette bore down upon the battery on the right, which had began firing as soon as the ships got under weigh; but the corvette never returned a shot until quite close, when luffing up, she discharged her broadside against the battery, which never fired again.

The French now opened from all their guns a heavy fire: the British pieces unlimbered, and played upon them, whilst the army continued to advance. The French, finding that a serious attack was intended, and afraid of being forced with the bayonet, retired from their position, abandoning the heavy guns; they however formed again on another ridge, and maintained from thence a galling fire of musquetry and grape.

The boats under Captain Stevenson behaved incomparably well: notwithstanding an eighteen pounder was directed entirely against his flotilla, he had continued to advance, preserving line with the heads of the columns, yet always leading him-

self.

self. When the French were obliged to abandon that battery in which the eighteen pounder was fixed, he jumped on shore, with the hopes of turning the gun against them on their retreat, but found it was spiked.*

The Guards on the right had continued their march, indifferent to the grape which played upon them,† forcing by their steady progress the French to evacuate the battery opposed to them, who as they quitted blew up the ammunition.

General Coote had now gained his first object, yet anxious to push on to the works of Alexandria, if possible, and Colonel Duncan's opinion strengthening his wish, he directed the army to continue in march. Always with the advanced guard, he exposed himself too much, if the pride alone of braving danger had urged him to place himself there; but he thought that in this instance, to be as forward as possible was his duty, that he might reconnoitre in person ground every one was unacquainted with, and the activity of his superintendance justified an otherwise censurable display of courage. All the other general officers at the heads of their different brigades made themselves equally conspicuous, animating the troops to the highest pitch of emulation.

Reluctantly, however, as the French retired, they had not time to save the tents, or baggage of their camp, which is a proof that they did not anticipate such a retreat.

A detachment of cavalry being observed stationary, Colonel Duncan directed the half of the 26th dragoons to charge them, when they retreated directly upon a battalion of infantry, which was not perceived till the 26th were within thirty yards, and

* In this battery was laying dead a most extraordinary large man.

† A company of Guards had a singular escape: also General Coote with some officers passing at the instant, a discharge of grape struck off the caps of several men, and did not hurt any person.

who

who then fired a volley so ineffectually, as not to kill or wound a single man or horse.

The army pushed on to within fourteen hundred yards of Alexandria before any halt was made, when, as Fort Des Bains, the first advanced work, was not to be assaulted, since the post could not be maintained without heavy artillery, and none was with the army, General Coote took up his position, although within range of shot, that a support to his approaches might always be ready. The corvettes and little armed launches did not immediately anchor; they stood on till a battery opened from the opposite side, which forms the outward flank of the inner harbour, and which neck of land is called L'Isle de Figuiéres; the cannon of Fort Crétin also played upon them. As no object was to be gained by this cannonade, Captain Cochrane derected them to anchor on the left of the army.

The French lost in this affair about two hundred killed, wounded, and prisoners, with seven pieces of cannon; the loss of the British was three killed, and forty wounded. The action had only been maintained by the 27th, Lowenstein Yagers, and the detachment of Guards, with the artillery, the rest of the army never having fired a shot, although every part was exposed to the enemy's fire, which had been very heavy, particularly in grape, but the inequalities of the ground prevented more fatal effects. Every one was astonished at the unexpected appearance of Alexandria; instead of being, as heretofore, removed by superior heights from view of the city, nothing intervened to hide the old crumbling walls. Such an approach seemed nearly absolute possession. The scene, which before had been always so frightfully bleak, became animatingly gay. The shipping in the harbour, the full view of every thing passing in the town, and the bustle on the quay, afforded consi-

considerable interest. The ground of the British encampment was also particularly remarkable; the catacombs of Alexandria, the temple of Diana, and the baths of Cleopatra, were all within the lines.

But an evil of no small magnitude was felt. Water which could be drank was not to be procured, and the men were obliged to go back four miles for it. In the evening the French sent out a flag of truce, to enquire after a colonel who was missing; he had been made prisoner, and was severely wounded. General Coote had shewed him every possible attention, and now permitted him to be carried into Alexandria.

An officer had been sent to General Hutchinson, with the intelligence of the success, who, on being informed of the boldness of the position, directed Colonel Spencer to embark with fifteen hundred men, and join General Coote. As the boats could not be got ready till night, General Hutchinson feared that the enemy before their arrival on the next morning might make a sortie on the western army with the concentrated force of the garrison; he therefore planned a feint to divert their attention to self-defence.

Half an hour before day-light, General Craddock and General Moore directed different parties of their troops to scatter themselves along the front, and crawling up as close as possible to the French position, on an appointed signal to commence a fire of musquetry. The intention of surprise perfectly succeeded; indeed, an officer of very high character has said, that he was inclined to think even a greater plan might have seriously been carried into execution, as the Turks, a party of whom had been employed on this service, before they were perceived, got quite up to the hills. The French alarmed, beat to arms, and until day-light shewed them they were firing

at

in the air, kept up the most furious discharge from all their guns and small arms. Their mortification was not little at the discovery.

The English army, except those on duty, being unacquainted with this feint, at first were greatly astonished: but when the occasion of the alarm was known, every one was delighted with this real *ruse de guerre.*

During this immense cannonade, only one man was killed, and one wounded; and this advantage resulted, independent of the first object, that the whole power of the enemy's defence was ascertained, from which exposition the engineers derived considerable advantage.

General Menou, with the view of preventing any attempt to cut out or burn the shipping in the harbour, directed eleven ships to be sunk across, and strong working parties were always employed on the hill above the lake, in front of Pompey's Pillar, at whom the Turkish gun-boats incessantly fired during the siege, expending at least three thousand rounds. On the 22d Captain Chollet of the Hompesch hussars, with a corps of Mamelukes who had passed round by the Desert, arrived at Marabou. Captain Chollet had been sent from Algam with two Beys to Damanhour; his instructions were to patrole through the Desert to Arabs Tower, and endeavour to cut off any supplies which the Arabs might be throwing into Alexandria. On his arrival at Damanhour, he put himself at the head of fifty Bedouin Arabs, leaving the Mamelukes behind until he had reconnoitred the post. Confiding in the loyalty of the Bedouins, he penetrated into the Desert. In four days he reached the Tower of the Arabs, from whence he distinguished Marabou and the harbour: he then sent off a report to the quarter master general, representing the necessity

 of

of a post being established at the Tower, to succeed in the object proposed.

The next day a body of Arabs was discovered escorting a convoy of camels, and about seven hundred sheep. Although this escort amounted to near four hundred men, Captain Chollet could not restrain his small party from attacking it. At length, shewing a corps which the Arab Chief had detached to take them in the rear, he persuaded his Arabs to retire, and attempt to cut off that detachment; but its Chief discovered too soon the intention, and retreated. As with so small a force nothing could be risqued, Captain Chollet was obliged to witness this valuable convoy proceed quietly into Alexandria, after having lost of his own party one man killed, and five wounded.

A few days afterwards Achmet Bey arrived at Arabs Tower, with about a hundred Mamelukes. The same body of Arabs was discovered on their return from Alexandria. Achmet Bey instantly charged; his horse, being the swiftest, he preceded his troops considerably, and rushed into the midst of the Arabs, when he was immediately shot. The Mamelukes seeing the fate of their leader, checked their career, and the Arabs, in the greatest consternation at having killed a Bey, returned into Alexandria, dreading the future vengeance of the other Beys. As it was found that the post at Arab's Tower could not be kept without artillery, on account of the numbers of Arabs which might and would escort the convoys, and as the general operation of investment was soon intended, the Mamelukes were ordered to be withdrawn.

Although these very Arabs who furnished the French with the means of longer resistance, would gladly have put them all to the sword, still the temptation of money produced from them the offices of friendship.

General

General Menou knew their character, and wisely paid them well; but avaricious and mercenary as in general these people were, principle was still to be found amongst some of them. How noble was the conduct of the Arabs at Dirna, who, when Admiral Gantheaume appeared off, and sent officers on shore, offering them ready money for their camels, and any price they might demand, replied, "We will enter into no agreement with you, however advantageous the terms might be to us, because your countrymen have been the enemies of the Prophet and of man in Egypt; therefore, if your troops attempt to land, we will oppose as long as we can resist, then set fire to our houses, retire into the Desert with our families and cattle, leaving you only ashes as your advantages."

When General Coote went to the westward, Captain Chollet was directed to proceed with two Beys round the inundation, and join them: he had then lived six weeks in the Desert, and certainly had been employed in a most disagreeable service.

This officer bears ample testimony to the sacredness of the Arabs' pledge of fidelity, and the anxious solicitude they always manifested for the security of those who placed in them unlimited confidence: they possessed, in the highest degree, that honourable feeling of pride, which is impatient of suspicion, and that virtue which would prefer the sacrifice of themselves, rather than betray, by a treacherous or cowardly action, those who reposed on their faith.

By night and by day he was the first object of their care; when he slept, a constant vigilance protected him, and awake, their principal concern was to supply his wants.

On the morning of the 23d General Hutchinson passed over to the westward, in order to examine the state of the fortifications on that side. Returning in the evening to his camp, the French fired a few shot at his boat without effect. In the even-

 ing

ing of the 24th an aid de camp of General Menou brought in a letter, addressed to General Hutchinson. As this was the first communication General Menou had ever permitted by land, the supposition was universal that he wished to surrender. The letter proved to be only complimentary, "for the humanity shewn to his wounded officers and soldiers, a recommendation of the garrison of Marabou to a brave and loyal army, concluding with a request for the admission of his brother-in-law into Alexandria, and some trunks belonging to his wife." This letter, although not containing the expected intelligence, was considered with confidence as a preliminary.

On the morning of the 23d the two batteries, constructed on the western side against the redoubt Des Bains, consisting of three 24 pounders and five mortars, had opened; but after some time, the platforms giving way, the firing ceased altogether. The French had thrown shells during this bombardment into the camp, and particularly at General Coote's tent, where a flag distinguished head quarters, still in the camp only one man was killed, and two wounded.

In the course of the day seven hundred Turks in d'germs passed to the westward; the French cannonaded the vessels, yet although sailing considerably within shot, and so numerous, not one was struck.

In the evening General Coote, anxious to advance his batteries, and occupy a ridge within six hundred yards of Fort Des Bains, ordered his troops under arms, directing Lieutenant Colonel Smith, with the first battalion of the 20th regiment, and a detachment of dragoons, to attack the enemy's out-posts stationed there. About nine o'clock at night, the column being formed, and a battalion posted on the sand hills as a reserve, Colonel Smith was ordered to advance with unloaded musquets: he proceeded along the base of the sand hills, the breadth

of

of which to the sea was not above eighty yards, until he came in line with the ridge he was to occupy, and then wheeled to the left into them, by which movement he came in rear of the French post of infantry, who, surprised, fired a few shot, and attempted to retreat, but being cut off from Fort Des Bains, the whole were either killed or taken. The number of prisoners amounted to seventy, exclusive of several officers, and about thirty soldiers who were bayonetted.

The cavalry had charged on the plain almost close to the walls of the town, surprised a picquet, killed and wounded several men, and took some prisoners. This affair was very creditable to the corps engaged, as no man fired a shot, according to order, depending solely on the bayonet. The attack having succeeded, and all firing on the part of the enemy ceased, the army was preparing to return into their tents, when the French, exasperated at the enterprize, and foreseeing its importance, determined, if possible, to recover the ground.

About a thousand men were ordered to effect this, under a heavy fire of artillery and musquetry; but the battalion of the 20th firmly resisted, and maintained the post.

The English batteries which had been silent during the day, now again fired, and the gun-boats in the lake kept up a very severe cannonade. This affair afforded a very beautiful sight, as in general all night actions do. The cannon shot rolled into the camp, the musquetry did not reach so far. After an hour's combat, the French general finding that his efforts were ineffectual, withdrew behind Fort Des Bains, and no further attempt was made.

On the morning of the 26th the English batteries at the eastward side on the Green Hill, containing ten 24 pounders and six 12 pounders, with two howitzers, opened against the right of the French position, particularly playing against the small redoubt

redoubt which covered the bridge, and the right battery of the line, which exposed seven embrasures, at the same time the Turkish gun-boats attacked them in the flank. The French fire was soon silenced, and about mid-day, Captain Brice, finding that they had withdrawn their guns, the English batteries ceased to play. One of the 24 pounders had burst in the morning, but did no mischief.

An interesting accident happened early. An old man, working on the parapet of a redoubt, was struck by a cannon ball, which took off both his legs. He fell into the arms of his own son, a corporal in the same regiment.

The Captain Pacha hearing of this circumstance, with that generous consideration which had ever distinguished him, sent a British officer to see if the man was still living, with directions to give him a handful of sequins, and to assure him of his ever afterwards being taken care of by his highness; the unfortunate man had however expired soon after the amputation.

In the evening the first aid de camp of General Menou came with a letter to demand an armistice for three days, in which time he might draw up articles of capitulation. This proposition was agreed to, and an arrangement made, that notwithstanding hostilities should immediately cease, the date of the armistice was only to commence from the moment the French fired three unshotted guns, to be answered by three from the English, when the colours of both armies were to be lowered from the flag staff, which ceremony was to take place at twelve o'clock of the next day.

An officer was sent instantly to General Coote, who arrived in time to prevent his making a lodgment on the hill above Pompey's Pillar; a post of the most considerable importance, and the occupation of which would at any time have secured the fall of Alexandria, it being distant from the walls of the

old

old town not above one hundred and fifty yards, and of nearly equal height to Forts Crétin and Caffarelli.

On the 27th Colonel Montresor arrived from the Indian army, with the intelligence that General Baird would reach Rosetta in a day or two.

On the 29th General Menou's aid de camp came in the evening; but instead of bringing articles of capitulation, he proposed a continuation of the armistice for thirty-six hours. General Hutchinson, much incensed, wrote back, that he should direct hostilities to recommence at twelve at night; and orders to this effect were sent to General Coote. At nine o'clock, however, the aid de camp returned, with an assurance that proposals should be sent by two o'clock the next day, which offer was accepted, and an officer dispatched to the westward with counter orders. An aid de camp and a chéf de brigade the next day at one o'clock arrived at head quarters, bearing articles of capitulation, many of which were refused, yet the intention to surrender was unequivocally confirmed: indeed, no doubt could remain, after Captain Marley, on the evening of the day before, had been conducted into the French lines with Madam Menou's baggage, which he delivered to General Rampon.

At eleven at night the aid de camp returned, with the articles agreed to as corrected by General Hutchinson. The next day General Hope went into Alexandria to sign the capitulation. General Menou received him with every mark of attention, and invited him to dinner. The repast was only horse flesh; but those who are acquainted with the French General, will know that his society would amply compensate for the want of a more luxurious diet.

On the morning of September the 2d, Lord Keith came on shore to ratify the terms, and a capitulation was concluded, which embraced every desirable object, without unnecessarily degrading

degrading the conquered. General Menou was certainly entitled to every consideration, which a brave but unfortunate officer has a right to expect from a generous enemy; and General Hutchinson knew well how to appreciate conduct which had been so honourable, and to accede every indulgence not incompatible with the interests of his country, and credit of the army. Policy obtained from him the terms of Cairo, and the noblest of motives induced his consent to these. That man who does his duty, must at the same time acquire the esteem of his adversaries, or they but ill merit their success.

General Menou's defence was such as his country had every reason to be satisfied with; a longer resistance would not have been sufficiently considerate for the troops under his command, unless they voluntarily devoted themselves to render glorious, by their sacrifice, the memory of the army of the east.

In the evening of September the 1st, General Baird and Colonel Auchmuty arrived at General Hutchinson's tent. His army had been encamped on the island of Rhoda until the 28th of August, when it re-embarked in dgerms, and reached Rosetta on the 31st. The 89th had descended the Nile with them, being ordered to join the main army. This corps had suffered most severely during its stay at Giza, from the dysentery and opthalmia, nearly the whole of the officers and men being affected with the latter malady. Several officers had also died suddenly, after entering a room locked up by the French in Morad Bey's house.

The Indian army, in very fine order, disembarked and encamped near Aboumandour. Whilst at Rhoda, this army had attracted much surprise and admiration. The Turks were astonished at the novel spectacle of men of colour being so well disciplined and trained: indeed, the general magnificence of the establishment of the Indian army was so different from

what

what they had been accustomed to see in General Hutchinson's, that the contrast could not fail of being striking. But General Baird proved to them also that his troops were not enfeebled, or himself rendered inactive by these superior comforts. Every morning at day-light he manœuvred his army for several hours, and in the evening again formed his parade. Never were finer men seen than those which composed this force, and no soldiers could possibly be in higher order.

General Baird had passed his army from Kinnéh, by divisions, in dgerms. Ten days were necessary to perform this voyage, the distance being near five hundred miles. Nothing particular occurred during the passage. The inhabitants furnished, when required by the Catchief or Arab officer, the different supplies very readily, for which, to their astonishment, they were immediately paid. The different views in Upper Egypt along the Nile were very picturesque, and the many towns on the banks appeared pretty at a distance; but on a more intimate acquaintance with them, like those in Lower Egypt, every thing was found in ruins, and offensive with dirt and nastiness. Independent of the ravages of the plague, the French had destroyed above forty thousand inhabitants, and ill treated in almost every place the women; and yet General Desaix's conquest of that country has been extolled in raptures, as glorious to the French arms and to humanity. The heat in the boats had been very great, the thermometer being generally above 100. Abundance of water fowl were seen, and quantities of pelicans, storks, &c. but none were shot, for they kept always at a considerable distance from the vessels.

The 89th, on the 1st of September, marched for Edko, passing through an inundation extending nearly the whole way, of two and three feet in depth, and never less than eighteen inches. On the 2d of September this regiment arrived at the block-house, and the same evening reached the camp by boats.

 September

September the 3d the quarter master general went into the French lines, to be shewn the mines, and the different forts to be occupied; and at eleven o'clock the grenadiers of the army, in three columns, with drums beating, colours flying, and a proportion of field pieces, marched to take possession of their position. At the base of the hill the bands struck up the grenadiers march.

There was something at that moment animating and gratifying to the feelings of every man which no language can express. It was a sensation more than repaying all the sufferings endured.

The entrance into the works was to the right of the Rosetta road coming from Alexandria, over a very deep ditch, which run in front of the position from left to right. The troops took possession of the whole lines, the redoubt in front of the gate of Rosetta, also the redoubt of Cleopatra, both beautiful works, and finished since the battle of the 21st. Most of the guns were withdrawn from the batteries, three of which were mined. The French had unhandsomely cut the halyards, on which their colours had been run up, to prevent the English hoisting theirs in the same place. They did the same at Pompey's Pillar; at the base of which extraordinary column the two divisions of the army had the pleasure of uniting; General Coote having in the morning taken possession of the Fort des Bains and Fort de Vivier.

General observation was of course directed to the strength of those heights which had appeared so formidable in the first instance, yet which latterly, perhaps from the habit of looking at them, seemed to have sunk considerably in their altitude, and to be less unassailable. The result of the examination was universal, that however strong the position in fact was, a more intimate knowledge previously would have exposed weaknesses,

which

which with such a gallant army might have rendered an attempt to carry the lines probably successful.

The position from the left, till within a hundred yards of the canal, was an uninterrupted commanding ridge of heights, fortified in the strongest manner, and defended by about seventy pieces of cannon. In front of the entrenchments was a ditch, of considerable breadth and depth. The beach to the sea was protected by a chevaux de frise, and the battery which hung over was mined. As the right of the line approached the canal, the ground descended into a plain, which the art employed there had not been sufficient to render equally strong against an attack.

The walls of Old Alexandria ran in the convex arch of a circle behind the position, the centre, the gate of Rosetta, not being above one hundred and fifty yards from the citadel of the line; but the curve was so sharp, that the elbows were thrown from the right near seven hundred yards, and from the left four hundred. Fort Crétin was within the walls, distant about twelve hundred yards. These walls were flanked by towers, separate from each other near sixty yards, in many of which was a field piece, besides batteries on the ramparts of the wall. Supposing then the first line carried in front, the troops would have been instantly exposed to grape from the redoubt before the Rosetta gate, and a battery on the wall above, whilst Fort Crétin, the redoubt of Cleopatra, and another on the right, would have fired with effect shells and round shot. To have maintained a lodgment under such a cannonade, would have been difficult; yet had the right of the French position been turned by regular approaches, the troops would have been sheltered, and the heights occupied without danger; still the mere possession of them by no means would alone have been sufficient, nor could the batteries have been on them judiciously constructed, since they

they did not command the principal works of the place. However even from hence, the walls of Old Alexandria could not have resisted an hour's battering, and the breach once made, the Turks would have entered the ruins, in which they would have fought as well if not better than European regulars.

Fort Crétin and Fort Caffarelli, in appearance tremendous mounts, were hills of rubbish, which the French had endeavoured in vain to consolidate. Some shells thrown into their sides, would have torn them to pieces, filled up their ditches, and exposed them to an easy assault. Fort des Bains was an excellent small work, with a very deep ditch in front, surrounded by large piles of stones, under which were barrels of gunpowder, to be blown up in the moment of an assault, an extremity to which the work would probably never have been defended, as being so distant from the body of the place the very first parallel was proposed to be advanced beyond it.

Fort Triangular, or Fort de Vivier, was an angle of the old wall, which could not have resisted a dozen shot.

The redoubt above Pompey's Pillar was strong, with a very deep and broad ditch, but the hill was so perpendicular, that the guns could not have been depressed sufficiently to cover the nearest hundred yards of glacis. Previous to the assault, zig-zags were to be made, which would have much facilitated the enterprize, and preserved the troops nearly the whole advance from any fire. There exists even a doubt whether a breach could not have been made in the walls of the town, without occupying this hill. The small redoubt on the right was of no consequence, being open in the gorge.

Now every one still more regretted that the movement on the 13th of March had not been completed, for several of these works had not then been constructed. The possession of the ridge above the inundation was then certain, which was the

the key to Alexandria, whose innermost recess would not have required much time or difficulty to open.

If General Hutchinson could have seen the interior of the French position, he probably would never have detached General Coote to the westward; for that movement was justly considered very serious, from the ignorance of the state of the isthmus leading to Alexandria, as to the defences of which the neck of land was so susceptible, the uncertainty whether water could be procured, as well as the extreme difficulty of ensuring the necessary supplies from the fleet. Possessed of better information, perhaps the general would have preferred to have worked up from the Green Hill against the French right, and when covered enough to hazard an assault, landed to second this operation a corps from the lake between the French lines and Pompey's Pillar, from which ridge, as before has been said, the best position offered itself for the destruction of the enemy's chief forts; two or three slight works and the canal could but have been a momentary obstruction: but, unacquainted with the locality, General Hutchinson's attack was perfectly judicious, as he was certain that by General Coote's landing to the westward, and occupation of Marabou, with the consequent entry of fire vessels into the harbour, the French, independent of his further progress, would have just reason to dread the conflagration of the shipping and the town, which would have rendered the whole neck of land too hot for them to have remained in, and destroyed all their magazines, since every store was necessarily deposited in the inner town, for fear of an assault. An attack on two fronts also so divided the force of the besieged, that the garrison was scarcely strong enough to defend the place, and certainly not equal to support the duty.

The French had been under arms every night since the siege began; nor could relief to the severity of the service be expected

pected or solicited under the circumstances which pressed: no one, however indolent, could have wished, in such a desperate situation, to leave the post of danger.

The general result of the observations made on the defences and works of Alexandria, will tend to illustrate, that the main attack should have been directed against the right of the eastern front of the enemy's camp, and the battering of the walls, Forts Crétin and Caffarelli from the intermediate heights between and Pompey's Pillar, or, if possible, from the hill above this column, from whence every work was laid open; and finally, that even the inlet into Old Alexandria, with such a superior army, would have secured, in three days at farthest, complete possession of the whole place, except the Pharos, the defence of which would have been no longer an object. An advance against the left of the French line would certainly have approached the army nearer to the new town; but the redoubt of Cleopatra was a very formidable independent work, too much receded to attack without the previous occupation of the ruins of the old city, and in rear, twenty yards in front of Cleopatra's Needles, was dug a very strong and deep entrenchment, appuying its flanks upon a high rock (on which was a tower) and on Fort Crétin, which perfectly protected the whole line.

In possession of the old town of Alexandria, nothing but a wall, with a deep ditch in front, built across the neck of land, uniting the old and new towns, was to be battered down; yet although heavy guns would have been required, this could be only considered as a rampart, behind which the survivors of a storm on the front works might find momentary security, from whence the white flag could be hoisted, and according to the laws of war must be accepted

So far, in a military point of view, this barrier was serviceable; and regarded as a piece of architecture, it is a beautiful work,

work, for which the Alexandrians ought to be much obliged to the French.

Fortunately for humanity, her dictates were attended to early. The English general did not wish wantonly to sacrifice his brave troops, particularly at the conclusion of the contest. Often has he said, "The life of every man in this army is so valuable to his country, that I feel considerable regret in exposing any to the common chances of war. A hundred such soldiers saved, will be a greater satisfaction to me than all the brilliancy of a successful assault." How different from the prodigal conqueror at Lodi: but the warrior, the moralist, and the philosopher, cannot differ in their opinion of the respective reasoning.

General Menou's force did not justify his longer resistance: he had also under him brave men, who, notwithstanding they were abandoned to themselves, remained faithful to their duty, who had seen their comrades pass gaily by them, returning to that native country they had all so long languished for, and who yet betrayed no symptom of disaffection, or intolerance at their situation. Worn out by fatigue, exposed daily to an unserviceable destruction, they still executed the commands, and relied on the judgment of their leader. It became therefore his sacred duty to preserve them, when his country could no longer be benefited by their perseverance; for he was aware that if the Turks were brought up after his lines were forced by the English, every individual they could have found would have perished; and in six days, if this catastrophe had not previously happened, a surrender at discretion could have been his only prospect.

There is no foundation for saying that there was only a few days water in Alexandria, as General Regnier insinuates; for with

with a very little supply, the water in the tanks has lasted the English ever since. Water is even to be found by digging, certainly not in large quantities, or very good, but sufficient and pure enough for a garrison in a state of siege. Cæsar mentions that in his time this was also the case. The want of provisions is a juster statement, still the horses and camels left alive were numerous, amounting to eight hundred of the former, and three hundred of the last; besides, their magazines of rice, &c. were by no means exhausted; perhaps, altogether, there was a supply for twenty or thirty days.

Alexandria was defended by three hundred and twelve pieces of cannon, chiefly brass, and seventy-seven were found in the ships of war, many of which had been put on board latterly. In the powder magazines were left 14,102 filled gun cartridges, and 195,218 lbs. of powder in barrels.

The return of the garrison, as given in by General Menou, yielded a total of ten thousand nine hundred and seventy-four persons, excluding women and children.

Return of the Garrison of Alexandria, which surrendered September the 1st, 1801.

Cavalry and infantry, including officers and non-commissioned officers - -	5965
Artillery, do. do. - - - -	759
Corps of dromedaries, Syrians, horse and foot guides, together - - - -	278
Marine artillery - - - -	290
Sappers and miners - - - -	139
Artificers - - - -	122
Seamen (doing duty in garrison) - -	1230
Carried forward ——	8783

Brought forward		8783
Greeks - - - - -	118	
Invalids - - - - - -	240	
Sick - - - - - - -	1387	
		1745
Total military -		10,528

Civil Department.

Officers and attendants of general hospital	238	
Army commissariat - - - -	95	
Marine commissariat - - - -	196	
Geographical engineers - - -	9	
Commission of arts and sciences - -	47	
Clerks of the national treasury - -	17	
Civilians and merchants - - -	83	
		685
Grand total -		11,213

Although the town was not free of access to every one, still as officers were admitted, and by the great civility of General Menou conducted to see every thing, there will be no impropriety in following up the observations on the defence of Alexandria, with a description of the town, and the several remarkable monuments in the environs.

The exterior walls of Old Alexandria, flanked with many old mouldering towers, form beautiful ruins, pleasing the eye even in the midst of desolation. The circumference of this wall must be near four miles.

In the centre of the sides, in a regular line, and fixed in horizontally at the distance of about ten yards from each other, are

are large pillars of granite, but whether so placed for ornament, or to strengthen the wall, is not evident: the inference is, however, direct, that these divided columns formerly belonged to a city much more ancient, and which probably was the magnificent Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great, a city without a rival in the world before or since. At a distance these projecting points resemble guns run out from the broadside of a ship.

Within this wall are the massive ruins of the Temple of the Sun; and many gigantic pillars of granite remain, which impress with the highest idea of its former grandeur: there are also many large fragments laying in every part, of which Scavans attempt an appropriation to their original buildings.

The gate of Rosetta is an elegant specimen of the Saracen taste in architecture. On the space between the walls and the sea are laying innumerable blocks and pillars of granite, porphyry, and marble, the ruins also, probably, of the antient Alexandria, and which seem to have been made use of by the Turks as monumental stones, since this ground formed their burial place.

About thirty yards in rear of the French entrenchment, as before represented, stands Cleopatra's Needle, and one of equal magnitude is laying close by horizontally. The French uncovered this since their arrival, the apex being only visible before. The form of these obelisks is of considerable elegance, and their magnitude is enormous, considering that each is only one piece of granite; their height is sixty-three feet, and base seven feet square; their sides are covered with hieroglyphics, which on the eastern front of the one that is upright are much effaced by the wind.

Tradition affirms that they ornamented the gate of Cleopatra's palace. From the quantities of marble, &c. &c. found

near

near the spot, probably the residence of the sovereigns of Egypt was placed there. Much is it to be lamented, that such a superb monument of the Egyptian expedition has not been already brought to England. The zeal of Lord Cavan urged an attempt, but the swell of the sea destroyed the quay he had constructed to embark it from, and the funds are so exhausted, as not to admit the formation of others; yet surely this is a project worthy the co-operation of government, and the country at large.

This obelisk would worthily record an illustrious campaign, and animate with emulous pride the rising generation. Nor could the possession be regarded by other nations with those sentiments of regret and aversion, which the pillaged treasures in the Museum at Paris, notwithstanding their excellence, inspire. This trophy could not be deemed, like those, an emblem of national shame, perpetuating the memory of nefarious crimes and horrible devastation. Humanity would rather exult on seeing a monument erected, which might convey instruction and example to future British armies, whilst the Arts and Sciences would have no cause to mourn the removal.

The next remarkable object is Pompey's Pillar, which stands on the south-west of Alexandria, within a hundred yards of the inundation, and on the exterior of which runs the canal of Alexandria. At a distance the appearance is noble; approached closer, the pillar is lovely beyond description. The dimensions are so stupendous, as would in a rude stone excite wonder, but when the elegance of the capital, the beauty of the shaft, and the proportioned solidity of base are combined, the eye rests on this pillar with delight, as the *chef d'œuvre* of the arts. Let imagination be raised to the utmost conception of perfection, and this perhaps is the unique excellence which would answer such expectation.

Pompey's Pillar is of the Corinthian order, and eighty-eight feet six inches in height; the shaft formed of a single block of granite, retaining the finest polish, except where the wind on the north-east front has chafed a little the surface, is sixty-four feet in height, and eight feet four inches in diameter.

At the base of the pedestal is an aperture, made by the Arabs, who in the hopes of finding money buried underneath (the only idea attached by them to the admiration of Europeans), endeavoured to blow up the column. Not understanding the principle of mining, the explosion did no mischief to the great fabric, only exposed some loose stones under the pedestal, on one of which hieroglyphics are to be seen, and which appear to have been placed there to form a solid foundation.

The French fearing that in time this removal of support might injure at all events the perpendicular elevation of the Pillar, filled up the vacuity with cement, which, to the disgrace of the English, they broke away again, and a centinel was at last stationed to guard a monument, which had remained amongst barbarians unprotected for ages, since some officers even attempted to gratify an highly censurable vanity, by knocking off pieces from the pedestal, to present to their friends in the united kingdoms; a destructive mania, which occasioned also the fracture of the sarcophagus in the great pyramid of Cairo.*

From several grooves and pieces of iron found by a party of English sailors, who, in order to drink a bowl of punch, ascended to the top, by flying a kite and fastening a rope round the capital, scarcely a doubt can remain of a statue having been formerly erected there, and Septimius Severus is supposed to have had that honour. A cap of liberty was substituted by the

This observation ought not to give offence. Individuals are not alluded to. Such remarks are only intended to excite in future a more disinterested respect for such monuments.

French,

French, which probably is by this time taken down; the colours they removed themselves.

Although this Pillar was so near to the town, the French never could venture so far in less than parties of twenty armed men; even some of these detachments were surprised by the Arabs, disarmed, stripped, *abused*, and sent in scorn back to their comrades in Alexandria.

A French officer, who superintended the manufactories of Giza, proposed removing this column to France: probably, the attempt would have proved beyond his or any other man's abilities.

Sonnini strongly recommends the project, and predicted that this monument would only be recognized in after-ages by the name of the Pillar of the French. Animated with illusions, he describes the names of the soldiers who fell in the *glorious* storm of Alexandria, as being engraved on the column already by order of Bonaparte. Unfortunately, not a character is to be discovered, and imagination would scarcely trace the Greek inscription, which is supposed to have been formerly seen on the shaft.

The city of Alexandria is very small: the population never exceeded six thousand nine hundred souls, and since the arrival of the French it is considerably diminished.

General Menou was encamped on an open place behind his new wall, which certainly was the most agreeable and cleanly situation. The houses being all white, the general appearance of the city is more lively than of any other in Egypt. There is nothing very remarkable to be seen in the town, excepting the mosque of St. Athanasius, which is a superb structure, whose colonades are formed of pillars of granite, marble, &c. There are no buildings so good as in Cairo. The quay of Alexandria is commodious, many antiquities were laying ready for embarkation,

barkation, an account of which is in the Appendix, serving as another evidence of General Regnier's correctness: a beautifully ornamented piece of cannon was also found ready to be embarked, and is since brought home by General Lawson.

The inner harbour was full of shipping, but in a ruinous state; the vessels of war were not even in good order; the Egyptienne, however, must be excepted, and mentioned as one of the finest frigates in any service. On the isle des Figuieres, or shoulder of land forming the flank of the inner harbour, is built the lazarette, to which several heavy batteries defend the approach every way. At the extremity of a dyke or causeway (apparently elevated by art), of about half a mile in length, and three yards in breadth, with walls on each side, stands the Pharos, which is built upon a rock, and which originally was a lighthouse, of such construction as to be called one of the wonders of the world. The present castle is of considerable strength, defended by thirty-five very fine pieces of French cannon, with two tiers of batteries. This fort perfectly commands the eastern harbour, and would resist any attack by sea. Here the English officers taken prisoners had been confined by General Menou; but they had not found, although the situation was healthy, that the residence was very agreeable: upon the whole, their treatment had not been good; close confinement perhaps was justifiable, rigour was never necessary, and therefore the officers had some reason to complain.*

* General Cavalier is mentioned with much gratitude by the officers of De Rolle's regiment, as having, on his own responsibility, advanced them money, when the French commander in chief had refused. On Colonel Cavalier's surrender, he was paid this honourable debt by General Hutchinson, who expressed his acknowledgments in the warmest manner.

After the capitulation, many Turks were delivered up, who had been made prisoners at Aboukir, or in the ships which entered Alexandria on the faith of the treaty of El Arish. They complained of having been obliged to labour very hard for Christian dogs. The Turks always called the French by that name, believing that the English troops possessed a faith similar to Mahometanism, and therefore would with pleasure hear that religion reproached.

The French have not this war been liberal; some instances occur where they have been inhuman. The late gallant General O'Hara was a cruel instance of their ungenerous treatment; and the French government yet patronize the most abandoned monster who ever disregarded the laws of war, and tyrannized over the unfortunate—Victor Hughes.

Scarcely any thing was to be bought in the town except coffee. This celebrated emporium of the merchandise of the east retained no trace of original splendour.

The new inundation may have improved the atmosphere of Alexandria, by correcting the vapours of the marsh of Mareotis, but at the same time it has ruined the city as a place of commerce; for unless the canal is repaired, a sufficient supply of water for the shipping can never be procured, and the reparation of that canal is a labour beyond the exertions of the Turks, yet an undertaking which would be probably worth the speculation of an adventurous civil engineer from Europe.

September the 5th Sir Sydney Smith and Colonel Abercrombie embarked on board the Carmine with the dispatches for England. The selection of these officers was an honourable trait of feeling and consideration. Sir Sydney Smith's pretensions to this distinction will be universally acknowledged; and Colonel Abercrombie, as the son of that officer whose councils, enterprize, and resolution, paved the way to this great success, and whose own services had been so meritorious, was the proper person to be chosen from the army, as the herald of intelligence, completing his father's fame.

Diffuse panegyrics might appear indelicate from an individual, as well as not be sufficiently impressive; therefore General Hutchinson's letter shall be here introduced, as best calculated to render justice to those officers, and the army in general, from the authority of the opinion, and the language in which

which his sense of their merits is expressed. Indeed, too much attention cannot be given to the whole of the Gazettes, which are added, not with the view of making a voluminous compilation, but as the most interesting documents and elegant specimens of official writings.

"This arduous and important service has at length been brought to a conclusion. The exertions of individuals have been splendid and meritorious. I regret that the bounds of a dispatch will not allow me to specify the whole, or to mention the name of every person who has distinguished himself in the public service. I have received the greatest support and assistance from the general officers of the army. The conduct of the troops of every description has been exemplary in the highest degree; there has been much to applaud, and nothing to reprehend; their order and regularity in the camp have been as conspicuous as their courage in their field. To the Quarter Master General, Lieutenant Colonel Anstruther, I owe much for his unwearied industry and zeal in the public service, and for the aid, advice, and co-operation which he has at all times afforded me. Brigadier General Lawson, who commanded the artillery, and Captain Brice, the chief engineer, have both great merit in their different departments. The local situation of Egypt presents obstacles of a most serious kind to military operations on an extended scale. The skill and perseverance of these two officers have overcome difficulties which at first sight have appeared almost insurmountable.

"Lieutenant Colonel Lindenthal, who has always acted with the Turks, deserves my utmost acknowledgments; his activity and diligence have been unremitted, and he has introduced amongst them an order and regularity which does him the highest honour.

"During the course of the long service on which we have been

been engaged, Lord Keith has, at all times, given me the most able assistance and counsel. The labour and fatigues of the navy have been continued and excessive—it has not been of one day or of one week, but for months together. In the Bay of Aboukir, on the new inundation, and on the Nile, for one hundred and sixty miles, they have been employed without intermission, and have submitted to many privations with a chearfulness and patience highly creditable to them, and advantageous to the public service.

" Sir Sydney Smith had originally the command of the seamen who landed from the fleet; he continued on shore till after the capture of Rosetta, and returned on board the Tigre a short time before the appearance of Admiral Gantheaume's squadron on the coast. He was present in the three actions of the 8th, 13th, and 21st of March, when he displayed that ardour of mind for the service of his country, and that noble intrepidity for which he has been ever so conspicuous.

" Captain Stevenson, of the Europa, succeeded him, and I have every reason to be satisfied with his zeal and conduct. The crews of the gun-boats displayed great gallantry, under his guidance in the new inundation; and much approbation is also due to the naval officers who acted under his orders.

" Captain Presland, of the Regulus, has had the direction for many months past of all Greek ships in our employment, and of those belonging to the commissariat. He has been active, zealous, and indefatigable, and merits my warmest approbation. I must therefore beg leave particularly to recommend this old and meritorious officer to your lordship's protection.

" Allow me to express an humble hope, that the army in Egypt have gratified the warmest wishes and expectations of their country. To them every thing is due, and to me nothing. It

It was my fate to succeed a man who created such a spirit, and established such a discipline amongst them, that little has been left to me to perform, except to follow his maxims, and to endeavour to imitate his conduct.

"This dispatch will be delivered to your lordship by Colonel Abercrombie, an officer of considerable ability, and worthy of the great name which he bears. He will one day, I trust, emulate the virtue and talents of his never-to-be-sufficiently lamented father."

Who is there, after a perusal of the above paper, and a recollection of the events traced in this work, will refuse to add, that General Hutchinson has proved he amply possessed in himself those virtues and talents he so forcibly delineates in others? Who can deny, that to his judgment, firmness, and perseverance, the final conquest of Egypt should be principally ascribed?

September the 6th Mr. Hutchinson was sent to Constantinople with the dispatches, by the particular wish of the Captain Pacha.

Mr. Hutchinson, although not in the army, volunteered during the war service with his brother, rendering himself also conspicuous for his talents, courage, and amiable manners.

Some differences had arisen between General Menou and General Hutchinson relative to the antiquities and collections. General Menou had maintained that two statues found in the ruins of Alexandria were private property, belonging to Général Friant; that the famous stone (called the gem of antiquity by the French, as being the key to the hieroglyphic language) was his private property, and that the collections of natural history belonged individually to the different artists. These pretensions were so weak as not to admit of sound argument; for how could such things be claimed by individuals, particularly in the French service, on an expedition, in which

so much attention had been paid, and such national expence incurred, to procure for the Museum of Paris curiosities of this nature?* General Menou at last abandoned the claim to the stone, but the statues were left to the English as a surrender of necessity. The works of the Savans, General Hutchinson on their representation restored to them, as they explained that their researches would be published for general information, and he was aware that no one could complete so well as those who originally designed. General Menou, in the course of this altercation, stated, that he was certainly obliged to yield to the mandates of a general supported by so many thousand men, and with such an artillery. General Hutchinson answered, that these reproaches were not handsome, since he had never cast any on him for allowing an inferior army to gain the country, nor should he even now make such recrimination.

General Menou also claimed a frigate, and justified his demand from the indulgencies granted to General Wurmser at the capitulation of Mantua; to which General Hutchinson replied, that he had no power to alter the smallest article of the treaty.

In the whole of this correspondence, General Menou displayed much ability and ingenuity of argument.

General Regnier states, that the naturalists, by the firmness of their conduct and the threat of burning their collections, preserved them; but this coincides with all his other statements. Such a menace would have compromised too much, and neither Fourier, Nouet, or Redouté, when in the presence of General Hutchinson, made use of any words in which politeness

* General Hutchinson, as a man, did consider the peculiar hardships of these men of talents; but no right could be assumed on the plea that the French government had not sufficiently paid them, or even covered their expences. They were the servants of the Republic, and their works were contracted for as national property. Although the bargain was bad, they could not withdraw from their engagements.

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and good reasoning were not marked; but General Regnier thus pays an involuntary compliment to General Hutchinson, when he describes him as yielding from the fear of injuring the arts and sciences.

The expedition to Egypt having been happily terminated, Lord Keith and General Hutchinson anxiously endeavoured to promote still farther the interests of their country; they therefore hastened the embarkation of a division of the army, to be placed under the command of General Craddock. The troops ordered for this service were, the 1st, 18th, 44th, 30th, 50th, 89th, Chasseurs Britannique, and Watteville's regiment, amounting altogether to 5031 men, of which only 3521 were fit for duty.

The general had wished to embark the whole together, after the French had quitted Alexandria; but as the transports for them could not be got ready, and the emergency of the service pressed, as well as that Lord Keith represented the necessity for the men of war, from the state they were in, to get off the coast before the bad weather commenced, the first division, consisting of the 1st, 30th, and 89th, marched on the 10th of September to Aboukir, where they embarked in line of battle ships, which sailed on the 12th. Generals Craddock and Doyle accompanied this advanced guard, leaving Colonel Stuart to bring on the remainder. Lord Keith commanded the fleet, consisting of seven sail of the line, a frigate, and man of war brig.

September the 14th the first division of French marched to Aboukir, and embarked. The troops seemed in high spirits.

September the 15th Lord William Bentinck arrived from England, bringing dispatches, altering the destination of the first expedition, and ordering others. He had fallen in with Lord Keith, who changed in consequence his signal of rendezvous to Malta, and General Coote was now to proceed on another

service

service with six thousand men, rendezvousing at Gibraltar. General Moore was ordered to England with all dispatch, Lord Cavan was left in command of Egypt, and General Hutchinson had leave to return home, General Fox being appointed to the command of the troops in the Mediterranean. The present distribution of the army was materially different from the former, yet it was evident that government had anticipated, from General Hutchinson's letters at Cairo, the fall of Alexandria, and these offensive preparations seemed to mark out further conquests.

The French continued to embark as fast as ships could be provided, which latterly came round into the harbour of Alexandria, and sailed directly they were ready, without waiting for convoy. General Menou had applied for leave to fit out from the arsenal some of the small vessels, which had belonged to the French, and to have them manned by French sailors. This request was accorded to, with the stipulation, that after having performed their quarantine at Toulon or Marseilles, the vessels should be sent to Minorca.*

The English troops ordered on the several expeditions embarked and sailed as quickly in succession as possible, and on the 18th of September General Menou embarked in the Dido frigate, when Lord Cavan delivered to the Captain Pacha the keys of Alexandria.

Although the destiny of General Menou had been so unfortunate, still justice demands that his character should be highly respected by his country. Whatever military faults may be urged against him, no enemy can traduce his devotion to the service in which he was engaged. Attached by principle and duty to

* These vessels have never been sent to Minorca; the French government detained them; of course the British government will take care that the army and navy shall receive their value from the French treasury.

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the Republic, he remained faithful and zealous for her interests and honour. Those who condemn his measures, should remember that his command was peculiarly difficult from the parties formed against him in the army; and who can be ignorant of the danger of such factions, or of the fatal consequences these combinations must ever produce? Perhaps a candid and public enquiry into that campaign, before a tribunal where General Menou could expose all the particulars of his situation, with the motives of his conduct, might altogether exonerate him from the censure which is ever attached to *ill* success. One trait, however, is highly honourable to his moral character, and which scarcely meets with a parallel in the course of the revolution. General Menou retired from a government where he had the full command over the revenue, without appropriating any part to his own advantage; he returned to France as poor as when he left his country, and every one knows that his income was inconsiderable. This was an eulogium universally bestowed on him, even by those of his own army, who were most hostile to his reputation, and the people of Egypt, without exception, agreed as to the fact. In his management of the finances, he indisputably displayed considerable abilities, and by regularly issuing the pay to the army, completely subdued the anti-colonist discontent, exciting a patriotism which induced the soldiers to bear with their own sufferings, in the hopes of benefiting the mother country.

Every one had been impatiently solicitous to serve on new enterprizes. Conjecture and speculation were daily agitating the politicians of the army respecting the destination of those ordered. War, "never ending, still beginning," was the universal idea (the French and Vizir alone had better information, for the latter at Cairo had mentioned and insisted on the probability of peace), when, to the discomfiture of every project and

and hope, on the 15th of November a vessel, with a white flag, stood into Alexandria, and proved to be the Lodi brig, announcing the preliminaries being signed; but whether peace is unnatural to soldiers, or the terms displeased, no joy was excited at the intelligence: on the contrary, had the army heard the shouts of Englishmen yoked to the carriage of the French aide de camp in the streets of London, the echo would have reverberated in tones of horror; nor would they without shame have reflected that this rabble were their countrymen, or would their indignation have been unnatural against the hirelings who sold that national character, which, to maintain, the best blood of England had flowed.

The Lodi brig had sailed from Toulon, delaying not a moment on her passage; for, ignorant of Lord Keith's being at Malta, when off that island, she met and hailed a Greek vessel, throwing at the same time a bottle into the sea, which she desired the captain to carry to the English general at Malta, as containing the preliminaries of peace.

The bottle was escorted to the admiral's house, attracting much curiosity, perhaps equal to that of the conjuror's.* Hope, doubts, and fears, distracted the anxious crowd during the interval; but when the bottle was broke, the paper read, and the article stipulating the surrender of Malta announced, no words can describe the sensation. Yet to enter into the merits of that treaty, would not be within the limits of this work, and the digression might be impossible to avoid, if the recollection of that impression was permitted.

Some consolation was found in the possibility of that paper being false. The arrival of the Badine three days afterwards

* It may not be universally recollected, that a large body of Londoners once assembled, paying each half a crown to see a man put himself into a quart bottle.

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from Toulon destroyed even that pleasure, and the captain of the vessel* increased the despondency by mentioning the acquirement of Piedmont and Elba by France; of Piedmont, so great a military acquisition, independent of the destruction of a monarchical establishment; of Elba, which, animated by the English, had so gallantly resisted French principles and French invasion.

Here then this narrative must close: yet had further opportunities offered, the troops composing the army of Egypt would have maintained their character, and perhaps some abler but not more faithful historian related their atchievements.

Enough of great actions has, however, been performed by the army and navy during the late contest, to authorise the aspiring hope, that whenever the day arrives for their exertions again to be called into action, the remembrance of the past will animate to future glory; and with such virtues in the field, directed by equal wisdom in the councils, England may expect to see again a successful war terminate in an honourable peace.

* It is impossible to define the character, either man of war or merchantman, as, although armed, built, and commissioned as a ship of war, she was laden with bad wine for sale.

FINIS.

MORAL AND PHYSICAL STATE

OF

EGYPT.

AS this country is now so connected with European politics, and must be an object of solicitude in every future war, a brief account of its present state, and the revolution impending, is so immediately interwoven with the former part of this work, that some remarks become necessary.

Egypt, from its fertility, is a most valuable colony to any power, more particularly, since the means of subsistence have not increased in Europe in proportion to the population.

At present the ground yields three crops, with care these crops might be made productive of at least one third more than their present quantity; even now, after affording subsistence to 3,000,000 of inhabitants, vast supplies are sent to Arabia and Turkey.* Barley, wheat, and rice grow almost spontaneously;† the seed of the former is generally only scattered on the

* The best informed persons believe, that even now Egypt could moreover export above a million of quarters.

† On an average a crop of corn in Egypt yields from twenty-five to thirty measures for one; in extraordinary years, the land gives a produce of fifty for one. Instançes have occurred, when one hundred and fifty times the seed sown has been reaped. The Egyptians prefer sowing barley to oats, as they find their horses live as well on it, and the land is not so much exhausted by that grain.

Mr.

the earth, or rather mud, and ripens in four months. Flax, trefoil, the plant from which indigo is extracted, the carthamus, the cotton tree, and the valuable date tree, flourish throughout Egypt.

The sugar cane grows luxuriantly, and excellent sugar is manufactured. The olive tree is to be found, and the coffee tree, with attention, might certainly be introduced: in short, every thing which the wants and luxuries of Europe demand might here be cultivated. From her locality, Egypt would soon again recover by commerce considerable splendour, if a good government did but direct the resources. Even under the Beys the revenue annually amounted to 1,500,000l. sterling, and the French derived in addition sufficient supplies in kind for their armies.

Africa sends to Cairo ivory, gold dust, gums, and slaves;* Arabia, her spices, with the manufactories of Persia and India. Approached so nearly to Europe, Egypt must be considered as the natural emporium for the riches of three quarters of the world, and in her own soil could rival America in any of her productions.

No one can contemplate the bahirahs or markets of Cairo, without being convinced of the former magnificence and exten-

Mr. Randall, in an agricultural publication, asserts, that in England one hundred and forty-four bushels, or eighteen quarters of wheat, have been produced by the seed being dibbled on an acre of land exquisitely prepared. Thirty-nine bushels of wheat have been yielded from nine pints of seed, set upon an acre of land, two kernels in a hole, at a foot distance. What then would Egypt give if properly cultivated?

* The condition of a slave in Egypt is very different from the miserable fate of those transported into the American colonies. The misery of the Nubian terminates the moment he becomes the property of a master. As a domestic, he is even more favoured than any other, and with the Mamelukes rises to dignity, as his qualifications entitle him. The females are admitted into the houses as servants to the favourite women, where they are treated with every kindness, and where the whip never lacerates at the irritation of petulance and capricious humour. Thus even Turks may teach Europeans humanity!

sion

ion of her establishments; then if, notwithstanding the obstacles to trade which an arbitrary government and insecurity of property always oppose, such was her prosperity, to what vast extension would it expand, when cherished and protected by the regulations of an adequate government. Hitherto Europeans were unacquainted with this extraordinary tract of territory; they considered Egypt as a land of desolation and disease, insulated from connexion with Asia and Africa by arid deserts, where almost inevitable death by thirst, by whirlwinds, and by robbers, menaced the traveller, and totally prevented the necessary communications of commerce. But the terrors of that Desert which has been described as so horrible, and which solitary individuals must have found frightful, are considerably diminished by the frequency of passage, and an examination into its nature.

Water is to be found almost every where throughout on digging, and wells are already established at the different posts of the road, which supplied seven thousand souls, with nearly as many camels and oxen in a very short interval of time. If then industry, encouraged by the temptation of gain, was applied, what difficulty could there be in transporting merchandise from Cossir to Cunei? From thence ten days only are required to the mouth of the Nile: perhaps even that dangerous boghaz might be avoided, and canals cut to unite the lakes, which might at once bring the vessels into the harbour of Alexandria.

Cossir would probably be a better station than Suez to form the dépôt, although so much farther removed. The contrary winds, and the dangerous navigation of the Red Sea, present many difficulties to the establishment of a large port at Suez, and the want of water there seems an insurmountable barrier, unless the ancient canal which united the Mediterranean and the Red

 Sea

Sea could again be restored; a work certainly not superior to the genius and powers of the nineteenth century, but which could not be attempted in the infant state of a colony.

There are no springs nearer to Suez than twelve miles, and those are called Moses's Wells, from the probable supposition that he allowed the Children of Israel to refresh themselves at them. Water is brought from thence, and deposited in tanks, which the inhabitants supply themselves from only in times of great necessity. Four of these wells lie close together, each forming a small pool of twelve or fourteen feet across in the broadest part, and from a foot to a foot and a half deep; their bottoms are of a slimy black colour, the taste of the water is brackish and bitter. One hundred and fifty yards from these is a fifth spring, the water of which was clearer and better tasted, which probably may proceed from the camels not being taken to drink there: its depth was three feet, and breadth five. The direction of these springs is to the southward of the town, and about two miles from the nearest part of the Red Sea.

When Admiral Blanket first arrived, the inhabitants shewed him a pool, which they said was of rain water, and that they had kept it always concealed from the French. The ships drew from this considerable supplies afterwards, as the water, allowed to settle, was very drinkable, and not hurtful; its colour was remarkable, being extremely white. When the detachment of the 86th landed, it encamped near this pool, which was distant about a mile to the westward of the town; but then not above six inches in depth, and thirty feet in circumference of water remained; it was in fact, a puddle full of insects, and of a very disagreeable smell: the troops were however obliged to drink this, and carry what they could with them on their march across the Desert, which nearly drained the reservoir.

A mile

A mile and a half further is a well, and a few miles beyond, in the same direction, is another; both of these contain very bitter waters.

The town of Suez itself is of no importance; a wall built by the French against the Arabs, with two batteries towards the sea, and a two-gun battery on a hill of ruins, about three hundred yards from the gate of Cairo, are the only defences.

Admiral Blanket's squadron lay at anchor in five fathom water, about four miles from the shore. A twenty-gun ship might approach a mile nearer; but even gun-boats could only with elevation fire into the town, although the walls are within eighty yards of the sea.

To the southward of the town a bank projects into the sea full three miles, so that the water running between it and the main shore forms what seamen call a river. A bar lies at the entrance, over which at low tide there is only two feet water, and at spring tides not more than eleven; within the bar are about four feet. The channel of this river is narrow, and forms a curve. By this large boats, called *does*, at high water, run close to the town, landing their cargoes on a wharf, on which was a one-gun battery.

I have been thus particular in describing Suez, as lately so much attention has been directed to the advantages which may result to an enemy possessing the place.

The loss of Suez, as a principal port in the Red Sea, is certainly a disadvantage, nor does Egypt on her Mediterranean shores present all the favourable opportunities for trade which might be hoped for from her contiguity to Europe. The prevalence of the strong north-west winds, nine months out of the twelve, renders the passage extremely tedious, and removes, in navigation, her ports to a considerable distance from Europe.*

rope.* Still there cannot be admitted a question of the counterbalancing advantages of her traffic.

In a military point of view, Egypt is of vast importance. The Ottoman empire totters, and India must be terror struck, if France should be ever allowed the possession.

Whenever she then directed herself against the former power, thousands would embrace her cause. Infatuated Turks would league themselves with Greeks, as they did at Smyrna, when Bonaparte was expected, and where he would have arrived, if the extraordinary defence of Acre had not defeated his enterprize. The islands, disaffected and too severely oppressed,† would with pleasure hoist the standard of revolt; and the Turkish government, without the possibility of an effort, must be reduced to the necessity of accepting the severest conditions of the conqueror, for on his mercy their lives as well as political existence would depend.

The views of France on India must be more remote, and the chances of success more precarious. Many warlike nations are to be subdued, before an invading army could reach the British possessions in India. No intrigue could secure the general friendship of those states, through which the passage was necessary.

The alliance of Europeans is dreaded in India as the serpent's embrace, since the bill of services they bring in is only to be repaid by the cession of the whole territory of the employers.

* Lord Keith, with seven sail of the line and two frigates, was a month beating from Alexandria to Malta. Many of the transports, with the French troops from Cairo, were four months reaching Marseilles.

† No island is more disaffected than Cyprus, and none of such importance in those seas. France has too late, let us hope, been sensible of its value and her error, in not connecting its occupation with the Egyptian expedition.

The

The destruction of Tippoo Saib, and the occupation by the English of the sea ports on that coast, render a maritime expedition from Egypt nearly impossible. Partial supplies could scarcely be thrown in from thence to hostile princes; but the policy of France is too deep, her enmity too rooted, not to devise means in process of time for the destruction of the English power in India, and Egypt approaches her too near to this valuable colony.

Russia, under some ambitious monarch, might be induced again to extend her arms, and such an union of force would indeed be a formidable menace.

A nobleman most justly celebrated for the extent of his political knowledge and distinguished capacity, possessing also the best sources of information, relates an anecdote of his being shewn the copy of a plan given in by a Frenchman to the great Catherine of Russia, for the conquest of India, which idea appeared then so gigantic, that he did not much occupy himself with the details.

Some years afterwards Suwarrow entered Ispahan: "then," says he, "I lamented the inattention, for I thought that I heard his cannon re-echoing in Hindostan, and the wonders of the French revolution have removed from my eyes the cloud of impracticability which I had thrown over the attempt."

Few perhaps know that Paul the First drew from the archives this important project, and attempted, in concert with France, the realization; when, fortunately for humanity and his country, death defeated his schemes of ambition and unnatural enmity.*

England, when she undertook the expedition against Egypt,

* One division was already on its march, which was to have been followed by another, when a corps of fifty thousand men would have assembled in the autumn of 1801 on the borders of the Caspian Sea.

disclaimed

disclaimed the intention of appropriating the conquest to her possessions; but happier would have been that country, and more advantageous might the arrangement have been made for Turkey, if Egypt had been constituted as an Indian colony.

Egypt is necessary to England for security, not as an acquisition of wealth or aggrandizement. The theatre of her wars with France will ever hereafter be extended to those plains, and such an extension of the field of battle must be highly prejudicial to the interests of Great Britain.

The maintenance of Alexandria or Malta was absolutely necessary, to remove these apprehensions: perhaps the retention of the former port would have been in the event more beneficial than the possession of the whole territory, since into this city would have been attracted the merchandizes of Cairo, and the productions of the soil, without the important inconveniencies, dominion over the whole must necessarily connect with the maintenance; whilst Turkey might have been secured in her revenue, and the Mameluke power as it was, guaranteed, still preserved in integrity.

Malta, from her commanding attitude over the ports of France and the coast of Egypt, was the next desirable station, and which would have protected, as long as England remains mistress of the seas, every point she was anxious to guard to the eastward of Sicily. As both these conquests have been abandoned, England should yet apply all the means within her power to oppose the future projects of an inveterate enemy on a country which the government of France is attached to by motives of individual pride, as well as of national interest. That the Turks are now to be considered as the absolute possessors of Egypt, is scarcely disputable; the events which have recently taken place there form a new epoch in history. The Porte had seen with jealousy the re-establishment of the Mameluke government,

government, although the Ottoman faith had been pledged to the reinstatement of their sovereignty in every right and dignity. The Turks, from a recollection of the rebellious system of the Mamelukes, who had long endeavoured to throw off even the yoke of nominal dependence, altogether refusing the stipulated tributes, now wished to secure an undivided government, and by one effort remove these usurpers;* a policy which under any other circumstances would have been sanctioned by justice as well as prudence.

The plan was arranged to convey the Beys to Constantinople; for if the massacre of them had been predetermined on, the Pacha and the Grand Vizir would assuredly have at once executed all within their power.

The Beys, seized by the Captain Pacha, were going with him in his own boat to dine according to invitation with Admiral

* Egypt, called in the scriptures Misraim, after one of the sons of Cham, and which name is perpetuated by the Turks, who still call this country Missir, had been governed from immemorial time by its own kings, until Cambyses possessed himself of the throne. When Alexander's empire was dismembered, the reign of the Ptolemies succeeded, which dynasty continued until Augustus, by the defeat of Anthony and subsequent death of Cleopatra, subjected Egypt into a Roman colony. The Greek emperors retained possession until the year 641, when Amrou Ben el Has, lieutenant of Omar, conquered the country, and erected the Mussulman dynasty of the Ommiades. This dynasty terminating in the year 749, was succeeded by that of the Abassides and others. At length Saladin, by birth a Curdeen, availing himself of dissensions which existed between the parties contending for the sovereignty of Egypt, erected a new dynasty on the Aioubites. Salah Nugenmeddin, the conqueror of St. Louis, was the last but one of this dynasty, which terminated in the year 1250. He established the institution of the Mamelukes, a name in Arabic signifying slave, as these people were brought by Tartars to Cairo from Georgia and Circassia for sale. The Mamelukes became so formidable, that in the year 1381 they raised one of their own body to the throne, who was called Eddhaber Barkouk, a name given him by his master, as expressive of his courage. This dynasty reigned in Egypt through twenty-nine Sultans, and terminated with the death of Torman Bey about the year 1517, when Egypt submitted to his conqueror, Selim the First, who substituted the Ottoman empire, and that form of government which continued with occasional interruptions until the invasion of the French under General Bonaparte.

Bicker-

Bickerton, in the harbour of Alexandria. Whilst passing on the lake of Mareotis, a Chous or Turkish lieutenant hailed the Captain Pacha, as bearing dispatches from Constantinople. The Pacha having perused them, went on shore, excusing himself to the Beys with the pretence of an immediate answer being necessary.

The boats then stood off, bearing up for a Turkish gun-boat, anchored in the lake, on board of which the Pacha had ordered them to be carried. This circumstance, united with the Pacha's extraordinary's conduct, excited suspicions. At last the Beys attempted to seize the vessel. The Turkish rowers, men particularly attached to and favoured by the Captain Pacha, resisted. The gun-boat which they had now approached fired musquetry upon the Mamelukes, when the surviving Beys were obliged to submit. In the tumult Osman Bey Tambourgi, the chief of the Mamelukes, had been killed, also Osman Bey Ascar, Mahommed Bey Mafice, and the black Caia Bey, who, although covered with wounds, continued with desperate fury the contest until he expired.

Osman Bey Bardici was severely wounded, but has since recovered. As British faith had been pledged to guarantee their security, this outrage excited General Hutchinson's strong indignation. The living prisoners were forced from the Turks, and by this time have joined the Beys given up by the Vizir to General Stuart.

The bodies of the deceased were buried at Alexandria with all military honours; and General Hutchinson's conduct removed the smallest stain of suspicion from the English character.

Europe has resounded with the report of the wilful massacre of the Beys of Egypt, but it would be unjust to allow such a calumny to pass uncontradicted. The strong evidence of facts,

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as well as circumstantial evidence, refute the charge, and the odium of assassination cannot attach on the Captain Pacha.*

Refuged in Upper Egypt, the Mamelukes may carry on a petty predatory warfare against the Turks, but the inferiority of their numbers will not allow the supposition of an eventual success. Deprived of their revenue, separated from Georgia and the other provinces from whence their boy recruits were brought, the exportation of which the Emperor of Russia (in order to assist the Turks) has also forbid, exposed to the malady of the plague, which always makes dreadful ravages amongst them, their race must in a short time become extinct.† The resources they can draw from Nubia cannot prolong their existence, and an alliance with the Bedouins will afford them no efficacious succours. The enterprize of the French deserters, unfortunately admitted amongst them, and who should be rooted out of the country whatever may be its fate, may delay a short time their act of abdication; yet the government of the Mamelukes must be pronounced as annihilated, and the sovereignty of the Porte established.‡

* His enemies may say that through life he has not been innocent of assassination. The event to which they allude follows; but when the state of society and law in Turkey are remembered, no crime can attach to the Captain Pacha.

In his campaign against Paswan Oglou, he discovered that the man in whom he had placed the most unlimited confidence, whose gratitude he had every right to command, had constantly kept up a correspondence with the enemy, and betrayed every secret. Determined on an exemplary vengeance, he sends for him, hears his protestations of affection and sincerity, and pretends to confide still more. A repast was brought in; but as the unhappy wretch was lifting a morsel to his mouth, the Captain Pacha exclaimed, "Traitor, does not the consciousness of treachery forbid you to eat with me? Die then by the hand of him who was your greatest benefactor;" at the same moment shooting him with a pistol he had drawn from his girdle.

† The Mamelukes seldom have children. Climate and many other reasons operate against their becoming parents, nor indeed do they ever value their offspring.

‡ One Bey, several Caias, and two hundred Mamelukes, have already surrendered themselves at Cairo voluntarily, and the submission of others has by this time probably taken place.

 Nor

Nor should Europe lament their fall. The government of the Mamelukes was unnatural and oppressive, their habits and customs degrading to manhood. The Turks certainly are a barbarous people, nor will Egypt gain any immediate advantage by the change: she must continue to be the wretched victim of avaricious invaders. Although the Egyptians are possessed of qualities which might if improved render them capable of being a free nation, they will long be destitute of that virtue and energy necessary to undertake their own independence.

The defence of Egypt must therefore be considered as committed to the Turks, and the enquiry instituted as to the best means which may be devised to render them capable of resisting a French invasion.

Alexandria must ever be pronounced the key to Egypt, although insulated by water and Desert from the cultivated country, since in that harbour alone security can be found for shipping of any burthen throughout the year. The flat shoaly coast of Egypt, and the boisterous weather, will not admit of vessels riding in safety any where else. In the fine season, if the Turks could defend Alexandria, France dare not expose another armament to disaster in Aboukir Bay, which cannot be fortified against the entrance of hostile fleets. The importance therefore of rendering Alexandria superior to a *coup de main* is obvious; and to effect this, her exterior works should be removed to the greatest possible distance, that some time must elapse before the body of the place could be attacked.

The complete insulation of the city by the sea would secure the proposed object, and is a plan against which very few objections, if any, could be advanced. The extant bed of the original cut, which united the Mareotis and the Mediterranean where the isthmus is not above one hundred and fifty yards across, facilitates the project to the westward; and the narrowness

ness of the Aboukir isthmus, five miles to the eastward of Alexandria, where the breadth of the isthmus also does not exceed a quarter of a mile, would not terrify even Turks from the undertaking. Any debarkation at Aboukir would then be of little advantage, and if a fort was built on the high sand hill, at the base of which the English landed, a disembarkation even there would be rendered extremely difficult. An attempt in rear of the proposed new canal would, with common conduct on the part of the Turks, be impracticable.

The weather must be uncommonly fine indeed to allow of boats approaching on the side of the sea, where only two or three little bays at any time allow of the enterprize; and Lake Maadie might be sufficiently protected by batteries and gun-boats. To complete the insulation, the divided canal of Alexandria should only be reunited by pipes, otherwise the passage might be forced by a column moving round Lake Maadie.

With materials from Europe, for neither the brick or stone in Egypt is of good quality, strong works might be erected where Fort Caffarelli is now placed, on the height above Pompey's Pillar, on Fort Crétin and the redoubt of Cleopatra, which might certainly hold out until succours could arrive, since England must always be acquainted with the preparations for an expedition equal to this service, and follow with an armament of observation; nor would the Turks refuse an English fleet again admittance into their harbour.

For the defence of the port, Marabou should be strongly fortified, and heavy batteries raised on the isthmus, to cover two of the channels into the harbour. The batteries on the isle des Figuieres perfectly protect the third.

For the defence of the coast of Egypt, the caravansary at Lake Edko should be converted into a strong fort, particularly as at high Nile the boats of a fleet might otherwise procure fresh water

water at the entrance of this lake, which then runs on the surface of the salt water, marking its channel by a yellow tinge.

The forts of St. Julien, Bourlos, Dibèh, and Lesbèh, sufficiently defend the remainder, since the boghaz and flat shore form an almost insuperable first line of resistance to any attempt of debarkation on these points.

For the protection of the rest of Egypt, a regular intrenched camp at Rhamanieh would be necessary, as the central situation for the defence of the whole coast, and the point of union between Alexandria and Cairo. With a flanking work in the Delta, that position might be made tenable. A fort at the point of the Delta, commanding both branches of the Nile, would considerably impede the progress of an enemy moving against Cairo; and in that city entrenchments ought to be constructed in every direction, as the inhabitants have proved in the siege of Cairo, which held out after the defeat of the Vizir against the French forty days, that in this part of warfare they are not inferior to Europeans.

Lower Egypt is only practicable for military operations six or seven months in the year (from the latter end of February until the middle of August.) The inundation is completed at the beginning of September; and not before the month of December can any individual, well acquainted with the passes, traverse the country, for there are no bridges or regular roads. Troops with artillery will not then attempt their movements, as the water in the canals is too low to admit of boats being used, and the mud too deep to wade through. Sometimes a passage is not open before the beginning of March. This time might prove advantageous to an enemy wishing to establish himself on the coast, did not the tempestuous weather at that season form a good defence. If not in possession of Alexandria, no force could proceed by the Desert to Cairo, a march which

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in that case presents obstacles scarcely to be surmounted, as during three months of the inundation no communication could be had with the villages on its borders, and afterwards sufficient subsistence could not be procured in them.

Protected thus by natural defences, and strengthened by the precautions previously recommended, Egypt would not be an easy conquest, or the project of an attack require light consideration by those who were to be responsible for the success. The Turks are better adapted to defend the country than the Mamelukes. The many high banks of the canals, the deep fissures in the earth, surrounding every square foot, caused by the sun cracking the dried mud forming its soil, do not afford a surface for cavalry to act on. Although the horses there seldom pass out of a foot's pace, except for the gallop of a hundred yards, most of them are foundered, and none, if pressed in a trot for ten miles, would be able, from want of wind and stamina, to proceed. The Turkish horses were found considerably better, and the Turkish infantry might be made very good soldiers. Individually they are brave, fight entrenchments with courage and skill, and under the Captain Pacha have manifested how capable they are of being disciplined.

If the improved state of the Turkish marine be properly considered, an organization which entitles the present Captain Pacha to the greatest merit, no doubt will exist but that Turkey is still capable of reassuming a high rank amongst the powers of Europe. No country possesses within itself greater resources, no nation can present better materials, to found military establishments, or greater incentives; their religion and very habits of life tend to make this people a nation of warriors.

The character of the Captain Pacha sanctions the hope that those prejudices and abuses which have occasioned an unnatural weakness, may very soon be extirpated. He seems to be born

born in this age of splendid talents, to retrieve the fortunes of the Ottoman empire, and refix the crescent in the sphere from which it has wandered.

The hostility of the Turks to France offers a favourable moment for the completion of designs necessary to the interests of England and Turkey, who ought to form an inseparable alliance; nor could such measures be deemed otherwise than precautions of self-defence even by those whose views were impeded by them. The friendship of Turkey is of such importance to England, that every exertion should be made, and some sacrifices even not resisted, if they tend to prevent France resuming her influence in the Divan.

We all must lament that a country like Egypt, rich in treasures of fertility and commerce, from the civilization of which the sciences might derive the most important benefits, must, under the present posture of affairs, be retained in slavery; but those who would be doomed otherwise to form the colony, may find consolation in the reflection, that their lives in that country would certainly have been wretched from the misery which pervades, and the diseases which desolate a land gifted with the most wonderful bounties, and at the same time accursed with the most noxious calamities of nature.

MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S ... THE TANJORE ... MAHAL

DISEASES OF EGYPT.

IN no country are the inhabitants afflicted with more dreadful disorders, many of which must be attributed to the vices of the people, yet the most fatal unhappily proceed from causes which civilization and art cannot altogether controul.

Sonnini*, although his opinions are proved to have been in some instances erroneous, has entered into a very interesting detail of them, and his work on every account is worthy perusal; nor should some errors of description prejudice the general character of the history, as the circumstances under which he wrote, and the great object with which he wished to inflame the spirit of his countrymen, must ever be kept in view, and excuse a partiality excited by patriotism.

The plague, as being the malady which occasions the greatest alarm amongst those who have never been immediately acquainted with its nature, ranks as the most fatal of all distempers.

This fever, now properly called epidemical, was long supposed to have been brought from Turkey in the ships charged with old clothes, which constantly came to Alexandria for a market; but these and similar reasons cannot any longer be maintained, since the plague has generated annually in Egypt during the last four years (although no such communication had been possible), and even chiefly commenced in Upper Egypt.

* Volney's work is also excellent. Savary's is a charming romance.

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The source of this disorder must therefore be sought for in those phœnomena with which the appearance is connected.

The plague commences in Egypt when the Nile begins to fall, and ceases to be fatal (almost to a day, many pretend precisely so) after the 17th of June, which is the period of the summer solstice, and when the Nile is supposed to receive the first increase.

As the waters of the Nile retire from the surface of the country they had inundated, a rich slime of considerable condensity is left, which forms a soil so productive, as to render Egypt the most fertile land in the known world: but unfortunately, the benefits of Nature are always charged with a proportion of evil. This slime, subjected to the universal laws, is no sooner separated from its principle of action, than corruption ensues, and continues until all the putrid juices are totally absorbed by the heat of the sun, which then leaves the ground perfectly brittle, with the fissures previously described: the atmosphere at this time ceasing to be tainted, the plague throughout Egypt disappears.

This theory, however natural to Egypt, cannot be immediately applied to other countries, where the plague annually rages; but an examination into their climate, soil, and the customs of the people, will certainly prove the position, that the plague is local, occasioned by a corrupted state of atmosphere, and never introduced by contagion.*

Since the French expedition to Egypt, great discoveries have been made as to the properties of the plague, by the ability and boldness with which the numerous cases have been treated.

Assalini, in his excellent work, amongst many other remarkable facts denying the existence of contagion in the plague,

* None contend that the plague is not like all fevers, more or less infectious, according to habit of body and duration in bad air, but that the disease hangs only in the atmosphere, or breath of the immediately afflicted patient, not to be conveyed by touch on a third person.

asserts,

asserts, that he found by observation in the French army, that if a battalion infected left its cantonment for another, the distemper not only ceased in that corps, but that no one having communication was exposed to the smallest danger: nor did the phœnomena terminate here; for even if the battalion which occupied the post left by the diseased battalion quitted the place in ten days, the slightest symptom of the disorder never appeared amongst them.

As a proof of the plague being confined to atmosphere, independent of the examples its particular locality in Egypt offers, he mentions several remarkable cases at Jaffa* of men, who, confined in the hospital of that town by the plague, escaped into the Desert, and endeavoured to reach the army, but, finding the attempt impracticable, returned again in three days, perfectly recovered.

This extraordinary cure induced Assalini to encourage a removal from Jaffa, whenever the first symptoms were discernible, and every one on whom he could prevail to adopt this advice, immediately became convalescent. Unfortunately simple as the remedy is, death was more frequently preferred by the wretched patients, whom stupor and lethargy generally seized.

To remove still more those doubts which the prejudice of long received opinions will reluctantly allow to be dispelled, the fact must be stated, that the English and Turkish armies which marched to Cairo, passed through a country where the plague

* Jaffa is described by Assalini as having a lake near the town, whose stagnant waters corrupting, occasion the fever called plague; he adduces as a proof, that the division encamped near at first suffered from that fever. At Aboukir the dead bodies of the Turks, French, and English might have occasioned the putrid miasmata, containing the sources of the disease; and in favour of the hypothesis, medical men should know that at Aboukir the plague continued longer than in any part of Egypt. The sun there, on account of the sea breezes, did not possess sufficient power to absorb all the mephytic exhalations.

filled almost every village; that they communicated, without any precautions, in the most intimate manner with the natives, established their ovens at Menouf, where the plague raged violently; that the Turks even rifled the diseased in the pest-houses of Rhamanieh, and at Cairo dug up the corpses recently buried, and yet that no individual instance occurred of the malady in the armies; whilst the troops who remained stationary at Aboukir were severely afflicted, and of whom one hundred and seventy-three died: yet neither at Rosetta nor Alexandria did the fever shew itself.

In Egypt, where the villages approach within a quarter of a mile of each other, some were exempt from this malady, whilst the most neighbouring were desolated. So common is this circumstance, that the inhabitants particularise to Europeans those villages in their districts which during the season the plague has appeared in, yet do not themselves refuse to enter into them; nor indeed did the English hesitate, although frequently the dying were laid by the gate through which they were to pass. When the plague has been most virulent in Cairo, the inhabitants of the citadel have often been totally free from any infection, although having daily and promiscuous communication with the inhabitants of the city. There will be some difficulty in accounting on indisputable inferences for this partial infection of atmosphere, which at present can only be attributed to the different degrees of fœtid matter left on the ground, producing the quantity of putrid miasmata. The problem is however more arduous, that if the plague be contagious, and not like the small pox, to be had only once in a life, how, in a country where no care is taken to check the extension, population has not long since become extinct?

In Cairo last year forty thousand people were supposed to be infected with the plague, and many of the French garrison died

died in that city, although the disease was treated in their hospitals with the greatest ability.* In Upper Egypt sixty thousand of the inhabitants perished during the same season. There whole villages were swept away, and remained abandoned when the Indian army descended the Nile; but at the same time many instances occurred, when the nearest villages had not in them an instance of the malady. Then if the plague had been positively contagious, how comes it that this prodigious violence of infection did not extend the disorder indiscriminately and universally amongst all the people in Egypt, producing of course effects considerably more fatal? Nor can the observation attached to the return of Dr. Young, under whose superintendance the English hospitals were preserved in the highest order of excellent arrangement, the sick treated with the greatest consideration, and whose philosophical mind so well capacitated him for the very important situation in which he was placed, controvert the position that the plague is not more contagious than other fevers. The servants attached to an hospital, by continuing constantly in tainted atmosphere, must certainly be subject to maladies produced by bad air; and those instances afford rather proof in favour of a doctrine very important to humanity and the military service.

Egypt, in the possession of a power who felt interested in her prosperity, might in a course of years calculate on this disorder being altogether annihilated, or the pernicious influence so corrected, as no longer to possess the same calamitous properties. The introduction of lime, the use of coals, the paving of the streets in the cities, the formation of roads, the whitewashing of the apartments in every house, the draining

* The justly celebrated Dessagnettes was chief physician to the French army. The inspection of his hospitals obtained universal admiration, particularly the great one at Cairo.

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of all stagnant waters, and the use of well burnt brick instead of mud in building the villages, might in time correct the corrupted exhalations of the soil, whilst an attention to cleanliness would promote considerably the operations of science.

Until that too remote period arrives, the abilities of medical men have discovered medicines, which check the fatality, if they cannot ensure always a certain cure. The embrocation of oils is found to be very beneficial; and mercury, if the disorder has not gained already so much progress as to prevent the patient feeling in time the effects of that medicine, will generally produce the most favourable effects.

That daring spirit of investigation into the causes and effects of those diseases, whose principles are yet unknown, and which has so much distinguished the profession, was not to be intimidated by the menacing consequences of a bold examination into the powers and properties of the plague.

Dr. White, an English physician, determined to discover if this malady, so destructive to a large portion of the globe, and which filled with apprehension the remainder, could not be checked, or rendered less virulent, by the introduction of inoculation. Resolved to become the patient of his own speculation, at Rosetta, during the time the plague raged again (which it did towards the fall of the year, when numbers of Sepoys died), he inoculated himself with matter taken from the buboes of an infected person. The attempt failed twice; the third proved fatal, in three days after the symptoms appeared, he died, falling a much to be lamented victim to a disinterested zeal, benevolently and intrepidly directed for the benefit and happiness of community.

This catastrophe may for some time operate against the prosecution of a very interesting theory, yet in the detail of this case there are many incidents which will hereafter excite the atten-

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tion and enterprize of the enquiring mind, and the fact may very soon be incontrovertibly established, that this fever is local, excited by the state of atmosphere, in its progress not contagious, which will be very consolatory to humanity, and particularly important to be ascertained, at a moment when the countries most subject to this dreaded pestilence are about to be more intimately connected with the civilized states of the world.*

OPHTHALMIA.

THE period no sooner arrives when Egypt for a season is relieved from the plague, than another malady succeeds immediately, distinguished by the name of ophthalmia.

The effects of this disease are much more terrible than those of its precursor.

The fever called plague is not attended with any corporeal pain; torpor tranquillizes all sensibility of mind, and the hour of dissolution is expected with apathy. The crisis is death or complete recovery.

In the case of ophthalmia, the anguish of the affected part is acute nearly to delirium, whilst the unhappy patient retains a consciousness that his agonies probably may terminate in the loss of organs precious as existence. When the beauties of na-

* There are several very interesting publications relative to the diseases of Egypt about to be published. Assalini's is the ablest yet written; but Dr. Wittman, who was attached to the British mission with the Turkish army, it is said intends giving the world his very interesting remarks; and Dr. Maclean, a physician of eminence, whose brother resided many years in that capacity in Constantinople, proposes writing a work, which will unite the information every where collected on the subject of the plague and other epidemical fevers. From the character of these gentlemen, much useful as well as interesting knowledge may be anticipated in their several publications.

ture, the wonders of the universe, the objects of dearest affections can no longer be gazed on, that darkness is surely more painful to a soldier than the tranquil gloom of the grave.

The quantity of blind in Egypt is prodigious, nearly every fifth inhabitant has lost one eye, and many both. All the children have sore eyes, and Europeans do not better escape.

The French at first had more than two thirds of their army, according to their own report, affected with this malady; and the English troops, during their short stay, have suffered considerably, one hundred and sixty being totally blind, and two hundred having lost one eye irrecoverably.

The disorder is believed to originate in the nitrous particles emitted from the ground by the force of the sun, which are of a quality so pungent and penetrating, as to injure the fine vessels at the corner of the eye. The acrid and burning dust flying continually in the atmosphere irritates still more the already affected part, whilst the reflexion of the soil, the heat of the air, and livid light of the sky, tend to weaken the sight, at last occasioning that excessive inflammation denominated ophthalmia. When the actual ophthalmia has taken place, the patient suffers the most excruciating pains, which are described as if the balls of the eye were on fire, and the points of needles perpetually pierced into them. The abscess formed under the eyelids discharges a considerable quantity of moisture, which frequently vitiates into matter, every membrane swells, and the whole eye becomes frightfully distorted.

The children in Egypt, from the barbarous inattention of their parents, have from earliest infancy at the corner of their eyes a great quantity of little insects continually settled, which keep the vessels in a constant irritation, and finally burrow themselves into the interior coating of the eyelids. Scarcely will

will this assertion be believed; nevertheless, the fact is positive, that in Egypt all the mothers are guilty of this inhumanity, negligence, and uncleanliness.

The affection of the malady is sometimes extremely sudden, which induces the supposition that checked perspiration frequently and severely contributes to produce the disease. In a few hours often the inflammation has attained an alarming strength, to which no precise crisis can be anticipated. With some the disorder lasts only nine or ten days; in others the patients have suffered for months; and unfortunately, there is no security even after perfect recovery against an immediate new attack.

Ophthalmia is endemical to Egypt: its extirpation can scarcely be expected; but an acquaintance with all the different cases has enabled the European physicians to discover remedies which have rendered this disease in some degree less fatal.*

DYSENTERY.

Ophthalmia and dysentery are twin evils, generating and expiring together.

This complaint, so destructive in Europe to armies, cannot be deemed however more pernicious, or even equally so in Egypt. The returns of sick by cases of dysentery in a campaign, where the climate is moist, and the ground frequently damp, would be found to exceed considerably the number of those afflicted with the same malady in this dry soil, where the damp of rain seldom penetrates. There is indeed in Egypt, particularly on the isthmus of Aboukir, every morning an exhalation in the bottoms, where the date tree grows, of an extraordinary condensity, and which must be extremely noxious, but troops seldom would be exposed in such situations.

* Opium was found the best application.

Some have attributed to the Nile water the cause of this disorder, which is erroneously imputed, unless excessive quantities are drunk, when all water would be equally unwholesome. That water certainly, at the season of the year when the dysentery appears, becomes extremely thick, and even fœtid. A tumbler full allowed to settle five minutes, would yield at least one third of slimy mud. The operation of this sediment is however to be deemed rather salutary than otherwise, and a little vinegar or spirits infused would always correct any bad effects. With more justice do others affirm, that the diet is a principal cause of dysentery; for in Egypt every thing which is eat tends to promote acrimonious humours. The poultry of the country, from being unnaturally forced in ovens, seem to have the sources of health and growth dried up, never exceeding the size of a pigeon, their bodies yield only skin and bone, between which are lumps of rank fat, extremely nauseous and unwholesome; the eggs are very heavy, and often occasion sickness.

Buffalo meat is indigestible, and the mutton not very good. The oily food of the common inhabitants still more weakens the intestines, and produces a disposition to bile; but the principal cause of dysentery is checked perspiration.

The soldiers crowded into the Nile, when their bodies were pouring out streams of moisture, indifferent to the consequences of which they were so frequently warned.* At night a damp air chilled those who did not secure themselves by covering, and during the march to Cairo, frequently fifty men per day, seized with the malady, were obliged to leave the army. The impression of heat seems also to have had a considerable influence, since those sent to Rosetta, or who passed on board of ship, very soon recovered. The sea air braced again immediately the system which had been too much relaxed.

* Near thirty soldiers were drowned by bathing in the Nile when on their way to Cairo.

An

An attention to dress in this complaint is extremely necessary, both as a preventative and cure. Flannel shirts, and pantaloons made of cloth, should be worn; the gaiter and breeches are the worst possible appointment for a soldier in a warm country. At night the damp penetrates through the button holes, even with the most prudent; but who does not know, that a soldier, wearied with marching, which occasions a swelling of his limbs, increased by the tightness of his dress, almost always, for the sake of ease and rest, removes every confinement, and exposes entirely to the air his legs and knees during the night.

OBSERVATIONS.

A cutaneous disorder, extremely disagreeable, scarcely ever fatal, during the rising of the Nile, is also very general in Egypt. The itching is scarcely sufferable; notwithstanding, as the appearance of this heat is considered as an indication of health, and cooling physic soon removes it altogether, the complaint may be considered as an inconvenience not amounting to a malady. An officer imprudently bathing three times in one day, when the rash was strongly out, threw into the system what nature wished to reject, and he died in twelve hours. Such instances, however, occur in similar harmless complaints in Europe, affording melancholy evidences of indiscretion giving to disorders an unnatural inveteracy.

A vast variety of more severe diseases are common, and seem to have a peculiar character in that country; still as not immediately affecting the English army, they shall only be classed under their different heads, and then will follow a catalogue of what may be justly denominated the minor plagues of Egypt.

DISEASES.

LEPROSY—of the worst species.

ELEPHANTIASIS—very common, and of the worst sort, swelling the legs larger than a common bed bolster.

HERNIÆ—extremely frequent.

SYPHILIS—of the most malignant kind.

DROPSY
SORE HEADS
WORMS
LIVER COMPLAINTS } very frequent.

Minor Plagues of Egypt.

RATS—in extraordinary abundance, which the inhabitants of some villages near Rosetta eat.

FLIES and other INSECTS—numerous beyond credibility.

FLEAS—in such quantities, that in twelve hours clean linen was covered with thousands of spots of blood.

LICE—of every species. The Mameluke Beys even would think it no disgrace to employ themselves publicly in picking them off their persons.

MUSQUITOS and GNATS—their bite was peculiarly venomous, especially near Rosetta.

SCORPIONS and CENTIPEDES—the sting painful, and producing tumour, but not dangerous.

LOCUSTS—very destructive.

Many of these disagreeable animals the Egyptians may say are also inmates of Europe, but in no other country are they so numerous or so voracious as in Egypt.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

Return of the Sick *in the Egyptian Army.*

1st. THE sick with the army on the surrender of Cairo were about 800, viz.

With their respective regiments before Giza -		346	
In the hospital encampment at the point of the Delta, under the direction of a field inspector - -		454	
			800

Had left the army at different times on its march to Cairo about 1122, including the 454 at the encampment at the point of the Delta.

Sent to the general hospital at Rosetta at different times		284	
Left encamped at the point of the Delta, previous to the army taking up a position before Giza -		838	
			1122
Died at the point of the Delta - -	73		
Recovered and sent back to duty - -	311		
Remaining encamped at the point of the Delta -	454		
		838	

2d. The sick of the French army on the surrender of Cairo were about - - - - -	1800	
Taken ill on their march down to Rosetta - -	500	
		2300

The principal diseases, wounds, fevers, ophthalmia, dysentery, and a few cases of liver complaints.

3d. The

3d. The number of plague patients between the 12th of April and 26th of August, 1801, being the periods of the first appearance, and termination of the disease:

Admitted - -		380
Died - -	173	
Recovered - -	207	
	——	380

The deaths chiefly fell on the orderlies, nurses, and other servants of the hospitals. One staff apothecary, one surgeon of the 1st battalion, 27th regiment of foot, and three hospital mates, died of the disease.

4th. The number of the totally blind about 160

Lost one eye about 200

N. B. The whole of the sick with the army, and those remaining at the Delta, were sent down to Rosetta, previous to the army's returning to the encampment at El Hamed.

THOMAS YOUNG, I. G.

Return of the Disposal *of the* French Army *in Egypt by the British and Turkish Forces.*

	Military Estab.	*Civil Estab.*
Killed in the different actions and dead of wounds - - - -	3000	
Prisoners taken in battle in the different convoys, the garrisons of the forts, including the troops endeavouring to escape from Bourlos -	3500	
The garrison of Cairo, to which is to be added 500 deserters, and excluded 760 auxiliaries embarked - - - - -	13672	82
The garrison of Alexandria, including the marines doing duty, and about 200 auxiliaries -	10508	686
Soldiers dead by the plague and other maladies since the landing of the English - -	1500	
Total	32180	768

Including 760 auxiliaries embarked, but exclusive of the Coptic battalions which disbanded at Cairo, and 600 deserters altogether, also women and children.

Return of ARTILLERY *taken in Egypt.*

	Pieces of Cannon.
At the landing - - - - -	8
In the action of the 13th - - - -	4
Aboukir Castle - - - - -	11
In the battle of the 21st - - - -	2
Fort St. Julien - - - - -	15
Rhamanieh - - - -	18
Convoy on the Nile - - - -	12
Convoy in the Desert - - - -	1
Cairo, Giza, &c. - - - -	367
Marabou - - - - -	10
In the action to the westward 22d of August -	7
Alexandria, &c. - - - - -	389
Damietta and works near it - - -	54
At Salahieh, Belbeis, Cossir, Kinnéh, Suez, Siout, &c. &c.	100
Fort Bourlos - - - -	5
Total	1003

Exclusive of near 500 unserviceable pieces, guns in boats, shipping, &c. and field artillery taken in the vessels attempting to escape from Bourlos.

Return of SHIPPING *taken in the Harbour of Alexandria, and divided between the Turks and English.*

CAPTAIN PACHA.	Guns.	LORD KEITH.	Guns.
Le Cause - -	64	L'Egyptienne -	50
La Justice - -	46	La Regenere -	52
No. 1, Venetian -	26	No. 2, Venetian -	26

200 sail of merchantmen.

Three Turkish corvettes were given up to the Turks, but previously valued. These vessels had been taken in the harbour of Alexandria, where they had entered on the faith of the treaty of El Arish. The distribution of captured property had been so arranged, that the Turks were to divide equally, and then the English army and navy were to subdivide the half left.

An Account of PIECES *of* ANCIENT SCULPTURE, *taken by the British Forces, under the Command of Lieutenant General Lord Hutchinson, in Egypt, from the French Army in Alexandria, and sent to England in the Charge of Colonel Turner, Sept.* 1802.

1. An Egyptian sarcophagus, with hieroglyphics, of a stone called by the French *breche verte*, from the mosque of St. Athanasius in Alexandria.

2. Do. do. of black granite, from Cairo.

3. Do. do. of basaltes, from Menouf.

3. The fist of a Colossean statue, supposed to be Vulcan, found in the ruins of Memphis.

5. Five fragments of statues, with lions heads, black granite, brought from the ruins of Thebes.

6. A mutilated figure kneeling, black granite.

7. Two statues, white marble, supposed to be Septimius Severus and Marcus Aurelius, found in the researches made in Alexandria.

8. A stone of black granite, with three inscriptions, hieroglyphic, Coptic and Greek, found near Rosetta.

9. A statue of a woman sitting, with a lion's head, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

10. Two fragments of lions heads, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

11. A small figure kneeling, with hieroglyphics, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

12. Five fragments of statues, with lions heads, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

13. A fragment of a sarcophagus, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

14. Two small obelisks, remarkably fine, with hieroglyphics, basaltes, from Upper Egypt.

15. A Colossean ram's head, of a stone called by the French *rouge grais*, from Upper Egypt.

16. A statue of a woman sitting on the ground, of black granite; between the feet is a model of a capital of a column of the temple of Isis at Dendera.

17. A fragment of a statue, with a lion's head, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

A chest of Oriental Manuscripts, amounting to sixty-two, Coptic, Arabic, and Turkish, belonging to the library of the French Institute at Cairo.

W. Turner,
Col. and Capt. 3d Guards.

Several antiquities were found by the English; the most valuable were the figure of a Roman soldier, as large as life, and a large tablet, the inscription of which stated, that whatever this belonged to, was erected in honour of Septimius Severus by the veterans of the 11th Legion, which tablet is now in the possession of General Coote. A stone was also found in the camp of the 3d regiment of Guards, with hieroglyphics, of the same unknown kind as the Memnon.

Strength of the Army under the Command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, K. B.

Marmorice Bay, February 21ſt, 1801.

	Comm. Officers.						Rank and File.				
								Sick			
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Preſent fit for Duty.	Preſent.	Abſent.	Total.	Horſes.
Cavalry —	5	7	27	10	70	20	1034	29		1063	532
Artillery —	1	8	20	7	10	9	557	24	5	586	173
Infantry —	60	142	441	105	987	409	13304	750	896	14950	
Total	66	157	488	122	1067	438	14895	803	911	16599	705

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the British Army, during the Campaign in Egypt.

TIME WHEN.	Officers.			Quarter Mafters.			Serjeants.			Drummers			Rank and File.			Horfes.		
	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Miffing.
8th of March, 1801	4	26	1				4	34			5	1	94	540	32			
13th Ditto Ditto	8	70			1		7	61		1	7		163	965	1	19	5	
18th Ditto Ditto		2	3	1		1		1	1				7	6	12	23	12	7
21ft Ditto Ditto	10	60	3				9	48			3		224	1082	28	2	3	
9th of May, Ditto		4						1		1	1		4	18		10	5	
17th of Auguft, Ditto		2						3	1				9	39				
23d Ditto Ditto													1	1				
25th Ditto Ditto		3									1			32		1		
22d Ditto Ditto		1						1					3	40		2		
Total	22	168	7	1	1	1	20	149	2	2	17	1	505	2723	73	57	25	7

Aboukir, – – – –	8th of March, 1801.
Advance of the army, – – –	13th of March, 1801.
On a skirmish to the left of our position, –	18th of March, 1801.
Attack of the French on our position before Alexandria,	21st of March, 1801.
Rhamanieh, – – – –	9th of May, 1801.
Driving in the enemies advanced posts on the Eastern side of Alexandria, – – –	17th of Auguft, 1801.
Major-General Coote's corps advancing to blockade the Western side of Alexandria, –	22d of Auguft, 1801.
Advance of Major-General Coote's corps, –	23d and 25th of Auguft, 1801.

STATE *of the* ARMY *under the Command of General Sir* RALPH ABERCROMBY, *K.B.*

Camp, 4 Miles from Alexandria, 30th March, 1801.

REGIMENTS AND CORPS.		Commissioned Officers. Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File. Fit for Duty.	Sick present.	Sick absent.	Command at Rhodes.	Total.	Servants not Soldiers.
Brigade of Guards.	Coldstream Guards				2	11	4	4	32	12	647	44	159		850	
	3d Regiment do.				2	8	1	5	39	13	544	62	256		862	
1st Brigade.	Royals		2	1	4	9	3	2	36	16	460	151	27	20	658	1
	54th, 1st Battalion		2		5	11	6	2	29	15	362	115	90	9	576	15
	54th, 2d Battalion		1	2	3	11	6	4	31	12	347	128	59	14	548	4
	Marines		1	1	8	23		5	27	16	380	79			459	
2d Brigade.	8th		1	1	4	12	2	4	42	19	361	74	36		471	4
	13th		1	2	5	11	12	3	40	22	375	260	74		710	1
	18th		1	1	3	8	6	5	25	13	359	88	29		476	
	90th			1	3	11		2	35	13	438	270	25		743	2
3d Brigade.	27th, 2d Battalion			1	2	16	8	5	32	9	534	41	53		628	
	50th		2	1	3	15	3	5	27	11	407	86	23		516	
	79th	1		2	6	9	5	4	40	15	572	102	48		722	3
4th Brigade.	Queen's		2	1	9	16	6	4	41	19	513	36	23		572	1
	30th		1	1	5	11	3	5	33	19	359	42	9		420	4
	44th			1	4	10	2	4	36	15	220	68	7		295	8
	89th		2	1	9	11	3	3	32	22	341	48	8		397	6
5th Brigade.	Stuart's			2	7	15	6	6	44	21	707	187	31		925	2
	De Rolle's		1	1	5	4	5	4	41	20	402	110	22		534	9
	Dillon's		1	1	3	4	6	4	41	18	385	140	21		546	2
Reserve.	23d			1	5	15		4	34	12	362	116	53		531	
	28th		1		6	12	5	5	30	10	438	128	28		594	4
	42d		1	2	2	6	4	3	30	18	466	390	16		872	
	58th		1	1	8	9	5	4	29	13	357	110	18		485	2
	40th Flank Comp.		1		3	3	2	2	14	6	186	41			227	1
	Corsican Rangers				1	4		1	10	2	168	44	1		213	
	Staff Corps					1	2	0	2		82	3	5		90	
Total		1	22	25	117	277	106	99	852	381	10783	2963	1131	43	14920	69
92d Regt. detached to Aboukir				2	6	11	5	6	26	12	373	119	51		543	3
General Total.		1	22	27	123	288	111	105	878	393	11156	3082	1182	43	15463	72

CAVALRY.

REGIMENTS AND DETACHMENTS.	Commissioned Officers. Colonels.	Lt. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Cornets.	Staff.	Non-Commissioned. Quarter-Masters.	Serjeants.	Trumpeters.	Rank and File. Fit for Duty.	Sick.	Total.	Horses. Fit for Duty.	Sick.	Total.	Servants not Soldiers.
11th Light Dragoons –				1	3	1			3		49	3	52	61		61	3
12th Do. Do. –	1	1	2	4	6	5	4	5	25	7	428	74	502	102	26	128	8
20th Do. Do. –		2	1	1	7	4	4	8	35	10	406	32	438	107	24	131	4
Hompesch's – –			1	2	2	2			10	2	125	12	137	139	13	152	
Total.	1	3	4	8	18	12	8	13	73	19	1008	121	1129	409	63	472	15

ARTILLERY.

Commissioned Officers. Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File. Fit for Duty.	Sick present.	Sick absent.	Total.	Horse Department. Quarter-Master Commissaries.	Serjeant Conductors.	Corporal Conductors.	Farriers.	Gunner Drivers. Fit for Duty.	Sick.	Total.	Horses. Fit for Duty.	Sick.	Total.	Servants not Soldiers.
	1		8	20	7	10	9	475	98	5	578	2	2	5	2	58	13	71	90	52	142	2

INSTRUCTIONS *for the Captains commanding Divisions, on landing the Troops.*

WHEN the troops are to be landed by the boats of the fleet, great care should be had, that they are kept at a proper distance from each other, at least fifty feet; and when the situation of the place will admit of it, they are to dress, or take their respective stations, from the right, otherwise from the centre, or left, as may be most convenient, or as shall be previously appointed.

On no account must the boats crowd upon each other, nor are they to break the line, either by getting too much a-head or a-stern.

No boats are to come into the first line, except the flat boats, and the launches having the artillery on board, these last towed by cutters. The second line is to be composed of cutters only, to attend upon the flat boats, that they may afford immediate relief, should any boat require it, in which case they are to proceed directly, without waiting for orders, to give the necessary aid. The third line is to be composed of the cutters that tow the launches; and the boats belonging to each ship will keep in the wake of their respective flat boats.

To distinguish the boats having on board the grenadier company of each regiment, they will carry the camp colours of that regiment, and the other boats are to form to the left, until the regiment is completed, taking care that the companies are embarked on board the boats in the order they should be in when landed; and the captains commanding the division will consult with the commanding officer of the troops, and fix on the best method to obtain this object without confusion.

When the troops are to land, a situation will be pointed out upon the shore, where either the right or left will proceed to; if from the right, the boats to the left must observe open order, that the right wing may not be too much crowded together; and the boats to the right will pay like attention, when the left is the point from which they are to form.

Upon no account must any flat boat be nearer to another than fifty feet, and this will afford sufficient space for the cutters and launches

in

in the rear to land between the flat boats, agreeable to regimental order of the troops they have on board.

The flat boats are always to drop their grapnel from their stern at a proper distance from the shore, that they may haul off the moment the troops are landed.

It may often be necessary that the flat boats should pull quick round into an opposite direction, either for retreat or any other cause, in which case, it is of the utmost consequence that they should do so together, and in one direction. Strict attention must therefore be paid to the signal that will be made upon that occasion; and if no signal is made, they are always to pull to starboard.

The captains commanding the different divisions will repeat all the signals made by the commanding officer of the disembarkation; and each captain should have a rowing boat attending him, with a careful officer to carry his orders to the boats of his division.

In order that the flat boats may observe the signals as soon as made, a musquet will be fired from the commanding officer's boat, which is to be repeated by the captains of the other division. Each boat having the signal flags on board, must be provided with stretchers, that the flags may be seen, should the weather be calm; and all signals will be made at a flag staff, in the centre of the boat.

The officers commanding the boats must take particular care that none of the troops stand up, as on many occasions it may endanger the safety of the boat.

Each flat boat must be provided with four or five breakers, or small casks of water, that immediate relief may be given the troops upon their landing, should they require it.

When the first landing is completed, the boats (when ordered) will proceed to those ships having ensigns at their fore-top-gallant-mast-head; afterwards to those having their ensigns at the mizen, until all the troops are on shore.

When the second landing takes place, the captains will proceed with their division of boats to particular ships, that the regiments may be landed in a collective body; and this is to be observed until all the troops are on shore.

The

The launches that landed the artillery will proceed to such ordnance ship as will be pointed out, to land the light artillery and stores. Should this service not be requisite, they will assist in disembarking the troops, agreeable to the last instructions.

The captains of the different divisions will deliver copies of these and all other instructions to the lieutenants under their orders; and they will give others to the midshipmen, commanding the flat boats.

No persons belonging to the boats to be permitted to quit them upon landing, unless by the particular order of the commanding officer of the division.

Dated on board his majesty's ship Ajax, 24th January, 1801.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS *for the Captains and Officers appointed to superintend the debarkation of Troops, &c.*

THE Commander in Chief having signified to me, that after the troops are landed, the boats under the directions of the captains of their respective divisions are to be employed in landing the stores, provisions, and water belonging to the army:

The following distribution of the boats is therefore to take place, in order that the demands made by the different departments of the army may be regularly complied with.

After the first landing is completed, and ten pieces of artillery are on shore, the launches are to repair to the following ships, and convey on shore the guns as expressed against them.

	Launches.	*Guns.*	
Foudroyant -	2	2	6 pounders, Monarch transport.

Should the Minotaur and Northumberland not join, the following boats will land four howitzers, viz.

	Launch.		
Swiftsure -	1	1	from the Monarch.
Diadem -	1	1	
Ajax, - -	1	1	from the Indefatigable.
Europa -	1	1	

Kent

	Launch.	
Kent -	1	To be employed in landing spare ammunition, hand carts, &c. from any of the above vessels that are most convenient.
Dictator -	1	

A vessel will be anchored near the shore (having an ordnance flag flying), on board of which will be the spare ammunition, &c. independent of what will be landed by the Kent and Dictator's boats.

And the following launches will proceed on board the Ann transport, and there receive on board such stores as the commanding engineer may direct, viz.

	Launch.	
Stately -	1	with cutters to tow each.
Northumberland	1	
Delft -	1	
Minotaur -	1	

When the whole of the infantry are landed, and the above service completed, the divisions under the command of Captains Stevenson, Morrison, Larmour, and Apthorp, assisted by Captain Gunter, P. A. T. after placing dunnage in the boats bottoms, are to be employed in landing the cavalry of the reserve, consisting of 234 men and horses; also General Finch's brigade, consisting of 252 men and horses, making in all 486 horses with their riders, and for which 48 flat boats will be necessary: when they are landed, the boats are to return and land the horses belonging to the artillery, amounting to 182, and 88 men; also those belonging to the staff of the army, about 120, with their keepers; also such a proportion of forage as shall be judged necessary. After this service is performed, Captain Stevenson's and Morrison's divisions will be employed in landing water and provisions, to be deposited in the situations pointed out by the commissary general. All the vessels not employed by Captain Larmour in the ordnance department, will be dedicated to this service, particularly for the conveyance of water from the fleet to the army, should they require it, which is likely to be the case.

When the whole army is disembarked, Captain Larmour's division, with the launches that land the guns, except such as may be ordered to act as gun-boats, are to be exclusively appropriated to land all the ordnance

ordnance and stores, together with those belonging to the engineer's department in this service. Captain Larmour will be assisted by Lieutenant Kemp, the agent for those departments.

It will therefore fall immediately under the direction of Captain Larmour to have proper wharfs erected for the stores being landed upon (applying to the admiral for carpenters); that the boats are fitted for the reception of the heavy guns, slides provided to roll the guns out on; a proportion of two-inch planks are to be taken in each boat, for the trucks or wheels of the guns to run on when landed; and afterwards to accompany the guns, to prevent their sinking in the sand, should it be judged necessary; purchases prepared for getting the guns up on the shore, anchors sunk in the sand in situations proper for hauling the boats up by, in the event of bad weather, and such further precautions as may be judged necessary; some decked vessels will be placed under his directions, for the conveying of such stores as are liable to receive injury from the weather, as well as for the transportations of fascines, palisadoes, &c. &c.

Captain Scott's division, after the last brigade is landed, will disembark the dismounted dragoons, in number about 751 men; also the pioneers of the army, nearly 400 men; after which, should it be necessary, they will assist in the same service as Captain Stevenson's division; and on these duties Captain Scott will call to his assistance Lieutenant Brown, agent for transports.

Captain Apthorp will, after the troops are on shore, employ his division in landing the stores belonging to the general hospital; also those that appertain to quarter master general departments, and such others as do not fall under those heads already mentioned; but should those stores be soon landed, Captain Apthorp will employ his boats on any other services where the demands are the most urgent.

As it is quite impossible to foresee the different duties that must be performed by the boats of the fleet, and from the variety of situations I may be in, during the course of the intended service, it may not be in my power to give all the necessary orders; the captains of the different divisions must therefore exercise their own judgments upon many occasions. I shall only recommend, that where any service is demanded by the heads of departments, that the same is complied with; but on all

all occasions, those orders that come immediately from the Commander in Chief of the army, the adjutant general, or his deputy, Colonel Abercrombie, the quarter master general or his deputy, are to have the preference.

Care must be taken that the boats crews are regularly relieved when the service will admit of it, in order to prevent sickness from over fatigue, or being too long exposed to the sun.

The boats sails, when they have not awnings, are to be spread over them, when it can be done with convenience, both for to afford shelter to the men, and to prevent the sun from renting the boats, which will be greatly assisted by their being frequently wet, particularly in the evening, except when the men are forced to sleep in them, upon which occasion, doing it in the day time is to be preferred.

The flat boats are not to be employed on any duty where they are liable to injury, and the utmost care must be taken to keep them in constant repair: upon which account it is recommended that a carpenter shall be sent from each ship as one of her crew, being provided with a hammer, an assortment of nails and materials proper for stopping shot holes, or affording a temporary repair to the boat. These carpenters may be occasionally employed upon fitting wharfs or other necessary services.

When any wounded men are brought down upon the beach, and a request shall be made for their being conveyed on board the hospital ships, the captain of the division, to which such application shall be made, is to direct some of the boats under his orders to perform this service, and, if necessary, that the flat boats shall be removed, that the soldiers may be placed with convenience and ease to themselves, directing cutters or other boats to tow them. This service is particularly directed to the attention of Captain Apthorp, whose division is attached to the medical department.

Three days provisions must be ready cooked for the crews of the boats, and each of the men provided with a blanket, one shirt, and a pair of trowsers.

Every flat boat to have two spare oars, and a set of wooden thoels with grummets, in case the others should be lost or broken.

GENERAL

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters, Marmorice,
H. M. S. Kent, February 16th, 1801.

SUCH officers horses as were not embarked on the 14th instant, will be on the beach ready for embarkation to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock precisely. Officers will take notice, that after to-morrow no horses will be embarked.

The horses which have arrived for the cavalry since the last allotment are distributed as follows:

11th light dragoons	4 horses	On board No. 1.
Hompesch's	17 do.	
12th regiment	16 do.	On board No. 21.
26th do.	11 do.	

These horses will be on the beach ready for embarkation to-morrow morning, at seven o'clock.

The horses will receive the following rations while on board ship, viz. 5lb. barley, 5lb. straw, and three gallons of water. As it has been impossible to supply all the horse vessels with weights and measures, the non-commissioned officers will use the Turkish steelyards, which they will find on board, taking notice, that the *Turkish Ocque* is equal to 2lb. 11oz. English; so that the rations for horses at present established will be two *Ocques* of barley and three *Ocques* of straw nearly.

Majors of brigade are responsible that a copy of this order, as well as of the 6th instant, is given to each of the non-commissioned officers, in charge of the forage and provisions on board the different horse ships.

As nearly as circumstances will permit, the disembarkation of the army will take place in the following order.

1st. The infantry of the reserve, with ten pieces of light artillery.

The brigade of Guards.

The remainder of the first line, with six additional pieces of light artillery.

2d. The infantry of the second line.

3d. The mounted detachments of cavalry of the reserve and Brigadier Finch's brigade.

4th. The

4th. The dismounted part of the same brigade.

5th. The pioneers of the army, the horse detachment of the royal artillery, and such additional pieces of ordnance and ammunition as may be wanted.

When the troops are ordered to land, the men are to put into the flat boats as expeditiously as possible, but without hurry or disorder; they are to sit down in the boats, and in rowing to the shore, the strictest silence to be observed; the troops are positively ordered not to load, till formed on the beach; the formation is to be effected as soon as possible, the men are to fall in, in line opposite to where they land; nor is any individual or body of men, in conceiving themselves displaced, to attempt to regain their situation by closing to either flank, till ordered so to do by the general officer on whom they depend, or the senior officer present on the spot.

The troops are to land with sixty rounds of ammunition and two spare flints per man; the ammunition which cannot be contained in the pouches to be carefully put in the packs. Three days bread and three days pork, ready cooked, is to be carried by officers and men; the same quantity is to be landed to the troops; it is not however to be delivered out, but carried in kegs, and put under charge of the quarter master of each regiment, with a party sufficient for the purpose: each man will carry his canteen filled with water.

Three days barley will be carried for the horses of the cavalry, and of the staff and field officers.

The staff and field officers must provide themselves with forage sacks previous to the fleet sailing from this.

The men will carry their entrenching tools and the proportion of necessaries specified in the orders 15th August last, viz. two shirts, one pair of shoes, two pair of socks or stockings neatly made up in their packs or knapsacks, their camp kettles and blankets. Regiments having both blankets and great coats, will leave the latter on board.

It is absolutely necessary that the officers should bring on shore in the first instance such articles only as they can carry themselves. Officers servants are not only on all occasions of service to be present under arms with the corps to which they belong; they are to carry no more than any other soldier, and are to mount all picquets and guards with

with their masters. The smallest number of bâtmen possibly will be permitted; mounted officers alone are entitled to them.

The music, drummers, and men least fit for actual service, are to be selected for all regimental duties, not purely military; and officers commanding corps will be held strictly responsible for their being at all times, and in every situation, in the most effective state.

A proportion of the general hospital staff must be attached in the first instance to each brigade, and will be allowed such orderlies as are absolutely necessary from the brigade. Regimental surgeons are to be allowed one orderly each to carry the field case of instruments.

The spare arms, tents, and horse appointments of the dismounted cavalry, and every article of spare baggage, are to be left in charge of a careful non-commissioned officer on board of each ship.

After the troops have landed, the sick of such regiments as are embarked in transports, are to be collected into one of the vessels occupied by the corps, under the care of the assistant surgeon, who will, as soon as possible, report himself and the state of the men under his charge to the inspector general of hospitals on board H. M. S. Niger. In case of there being only one medical officer present with any regiment thus situated, this duty must be assigned to a careful non-commissioned officer.

Regiments embarked in men of war will leave the sick under the care of the surgeon of the ship, who will be entitled to the allowance established in such cases. If necessary, a small proportion of orderly men may be left with the sick, to be selected from the convalescent men. Regiments that have women will employ nurses in lieu of orderly men. The women are positively prohibited from landing, on any pretence whatever, until the commanding officers of corps have obtained the Commander in Chief's express permission for that purpose.

More detailed instructions, relative to the artillery, engineers, and commissariat, will be communicated to the respective officers at the head of each of those departments.

In the first instance, the troops will not have it in their power to bring forward their tents, but the ground on which the army, or any considerable detachment of it halts, must be taken up regularly, the usual

usual guards and picquets mounted, and patroles sent out in different directions.

Every officer occupying a post, of whatever nature, will esteem it his first duty to patrole in the neighbourhood, in order to ascertain the nature of the country, the avenues that lead to it, and the means of strengthening it.

All horses, mules, or camels, taken or found, are to be taken as soon as possible to the commissary general for the public service, nor is any individual to purchase or appropriate any horse, mule, or camel, until permission is given.

The Commander in Chief has had much satisfaction in observing the behaviour of the troops in their transactions with the inhabitants during the stay of the army at Marmorice; he trusts that a continuation of the same regular conduct will merit that approbation which he will at all times be anxious to bestow upon them; every instance of an opposite conduct will be punished in a most exemplary manner.

It will be the duty of officers of every rank to point out to the soldiers the evils they will expose themselves to, by a neglect of discipline and good conduct.

The manners, customs, and religious opinions of the inhabitants are to be most rigidly respected, and the severest punishment will await those who give just cause of offence in those particulars.

Straggling from camp, or lagging behind on a march, are to be strictly prohibited, and officers are enjoined to prevent it; plundering and marauding will expose the offenders to suffer immediate death.

Officers are strictly enjoined to employ every means, and use every precaution in their power, for the preservation of the health of the troops under their command.

The utmost vigilance will be expected from officers in situations of active duty, whether at the out-posts, or more immediately with the army.

Reports to head quarters, or to the general officers on whom they depend, must be made with as little delay as possible, but without precipitation, and if possible not till the subject of them has been thoroughly examined.

The

The circumstances under which it is probable the army will be called upon to act, will require that the exertion of every individual should concur to enforce the most exact discipline, the most rigid œconomy in the consumption of provisions, fuel, and water, and to diminish, as much as possible, the labour of the soldier: with these objects before them, so important and so essential to the success of the expedition, the Commander in Chief is confident that officers will not repine at any temporary inconvenience they may feel, or regret any privation they may undergo, but will, on the contrary, animate by their example the soldiers under their command to a similar conduct.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters, Marmorice,
H. M. S. Kent, February 19th, 1801.

THE general officers will be pleased to call to their recollection the regulations relative to the field duties of the army of date 20th August, 1799, and enforce their respective brigades to a due observance of them. The duties of the army will be done as much as possible by regiments. The corps who are next in tour of duty will consider themselves liable to be called upon, to support in the first instance those actually on duty; they will in general therefore not be detached.

The nature of the duties will depend upon the circumstances under which the army may be placed.

On the arrival of the army however on the ground, where it is to encamp, the general officers commanding brigades will be reponsible that the regimental quarter and rear guards are immediately mounted, that patroles are sent out in the neighbourhood of their respective encampments, to ascertain the nature of the ground, and that the number of officers and men warned for public duty are paraded, and ready to march to their respective posts as soon as possible; they will themselves patrole in the neighbourhood of the ground they occupy, and make a report thereupon to head quarters.

Besides

Besides such advanced posts as it may be found necessary to place in order to cover the army, picquets will occasionally be ordered from each brigade for the security of the camp. It will be the duty of the general officer commanding each brigade, to post them; they will be commanded by the field officer of the brigade on duty for the day; in general, they will be drawn in an hour after sun-rise; the hour at which they are to be withdrawn, however, must be general for the whole army, and will be ordered from head quarters.

Inlying picquets will occasionally be directed to mount. When the duty is done by regiments, the inlying picquets will turn out, in case of alarm, at the head of their own encampments, unless otherwise notified. If it should be necessary to do the duty promiscuously, the officers and men of the inlying picquets will remain in their own lines, and an alarm post will be assigned for the picquets of each brigade, at which they will assemble.

If it should be necessary to mount both outlying and inlying picquets, an additional field officer per brigade will be on duty daily, unless otherwise directed in the general orders.

There will be on duty daily a general officer of the day, a field officer per brigade, a captain and subaltern per regiment, an orderly subaltern per brigade at head quarters, and an orderly adjutant and quarter master per brigade. Mounted orderlies will only be permitted for the general officers of the day, or for such officers of the general staff of the army as it may hereafter be found absolutely necessary.

In regiments furnishing adjutants and quarter masters, the subaltern of the day, or an officer named for that purpose in regimental orders, may be directed to do their duty with the corps.

On all duties of fatigue, the utmost attention of officers will be required, to maintain regularity, and to carry on the service with dispatch. As circumstances may require, the fatigue parties will be commanded by a field officer, or brigaded under different officers of that rank. When fatigue parties relieve each other in the performance of the same piece of service, such as bringing forward provisions, guns, and stores, the relieving party will be stationed so as the least possible delay may take place.

It will be a general rule, that men going on all detached duties, whether

whether with arms, or duty of fatigue, will carry with them their provisions ready cooked.

When parties are ordered to march immediately, the field officer of the day will, as soon as possible, report them to the general officer of the day.

The majors of brigades and orderly adjutants will inspect all parties for duty. Men unfit, from whatever cause, to go on duty, will be sent back to their regiments, and others immediately sent in their place.

In general, the field officer of the day will inspect all parties, whether with or without arms, that may be ordered, before they march off.

The field officer of the day will go frequent rounds within the camp of his brigade, both by day and night, and will, in his report to the general officer of the day, specify the hours at which he visited the different posts.

In case of outlying picquets being ordered for the security of the camp, under the field officer of the day, the additional field officer on duty, who will remain in camp to command the inlying picquets, will do this duty.

The general officer of the day will visit, at such times as he shall see fit, the different guards or picquets posted for the security of the camp, and will be responsible that the duty is done correctly.

General officers will encamp with their brigades, or have quarters immediately in the rear.

When the army is stationary, the relief of all the common duties will be at sun-set.

It will be a constant regulation, that all troops on actual duty, with arms, whether at the advanced posts, or with the army, comprehending the inlying picquets, as well as the troops warned next for duty, shall (unless otherwise ordered) be under arms an hour before sun-rise.

The advanced posts of the army, distinct from such picquets as may occasionally be mounted for the security of the camp, will be put under the charge of an officer, named for that purpose, to whom instructions relating to them, and suited to circumstances, will be communicated. In general, however, it is directed, that all such posts shall connect themselves by patroles, with each other, and avoid having any place unexplored, or suffer any break in the chain. Their advanced sentinels

 will

will in general be doubled. If attacked, or apprehensive of attack, they must acquaint the posts on each flank, and the nearest posts of the army in their rear. If forced to retire, they will on no account omit to acquaint the posts nearest them on either flank, and will always fall back on the army.

No advanced post to move or detach to either flank, in order to support another, unless ordered by a general officer so to do.

These regulations apply not only to the permanent posts in front of the army, but also to such outlying picquets as may be posted for the more immediate security of the camp.

The general and field officers on duty must make themselves masters of the nearest and best communications between the army and advanced posts, in order to be enabled to give immediate support where necessary. Every report made from the advanced posts to head quarters, is to be forwarded with the greatest dispatch; and any officer occasioning delay, will be called to a strict account.

Deserters from the enemy, that may come in at any of the posts of the army, are to be forwarded immediately to head quarters, where they will be taken charge of by the provost marshal, or his guard, till examined.

Flags of truce will universally be stopped at the advanced posts till reported to head quarters, and orders are received respecting them.

As soon as the disembarkation of the army is effected, a boat will be found near the shore with spare ammunition, which will be distinguished by an ordnance flag, from which supplies can be procured when necessary.

Admiral Lord Keith having signified to Sir R. Abercromby, that a battalion of marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith, is to be landed to serve with the army, it will be attached to the 3d brigade, and take post in the order of battle between the 50th and 79th regiments.

As the soldiers canteens have been out of use for some time, it will be necessary to take the precaution of having them filled with water some days previous to the disembarkation of the army; and commanding officers of regiments are desired to give directions respecting this.

The sacks which have been sent on board ships of war with forage, must

must be taken care of, and returned to the commissary general when the army lands.

When the army disembarks, only one day's allowance of spirits will be issued to the troops, and will be carried in the rear of the regiments.

Camp near Aboukir, March 9th, 1801.

THE gallant behaviour of the troops in the action of yesterday, claims, from the Commander in Chief, the warmest praise that he can bestow; and it is with particular satisfaction, that he has observed their conduct, marked equally by ardent bravery, coolnesss, regularity, and order.

Major Generals Coote, Ludlow, and Moore, and Brigadier General Oakes, who led on the troops that effected the landing, and were engaged, will be pleased to accept Sir Ralph Abercromby's thanks, for the able manner in which they conducted the whole operation.

The Commander in Chief has much pleasure in acknowledging the effectual assistance received from the navy on this occasion, in consequence of the judicious arrangements, directed by Admiral Lord Keith. And it is his intention to request his Lordship to communicate his best thanks to Captain Cochrane of the Ajax, who superintended the disembarkation, as well as to the officers and men employed under him on that service; and to the officers and men employed in the gun-boats and armed launches, that covered the landing.

Sir Sydney Smith, the captains, officers, and men of the ships of war, who acted with the army on shore, will be pleased to accept Sir Ralph Abercromby's thanks, for their activity in bringing up the field artillery, and for the intrepidity and zeal with which they acquitted themselves of the whole service entrusted to them.

Aboukir Heights, 11th March, 1801.

THE troops which have not received provisions to the 14th instant, are this day to complete themselves to that day inclusive.

The main body of the army is considered, for the present, as forming three lines as follow.—1st line. Brigade of Guards, Major General Coote's brigade, and Major General Finch's.—2d line. Major General Craddock's, and Major General the Earl of Cavan's.—3d line. Brigadier General Stuart's, and Brigadier General Doyle's.

The army will advance to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock, according to the above order, each line forming two columns, the brigade of Guards marching from their right, and leading the first column: they will proceed along the road near the sea beach, leaving the redoubt of Mandora to their left, and will be directed on the flag staff, about two miles in front of it. Fifty dragoons, from Major General Finch's brigade, will join the Guards.

The mounted part of Major General Finch's brigade, followed by Major General Coote's, marching also from the right, will lead the second column; they will proceed along the side of the lake, leaving the redoubt of Mandora to the right, and will be directed on a conspicuous green hill in front of Mandora. Lieutenant Colonel Murray will conduct them. The brigades on the right of the second and third lines will follow the Guards, and those on the left will follow Major General Coote's.

As the Guards and Major General Finch's brigade are already considerably advanced, they will not move, until the head of Major General Coote's brigade appears. Major General Finch will detach fifty dragoons to join the Guards, before they move.

Each line will remain under the command of the senior general officer, who will see that flanking parties are furnished to the above march.—This will be chiefly done from the brigades of the rear line. As the ground on which the column of the right will have to proceed, beyond Mandora, is woody, the infantry will form the advanced guard; the dragoons furnishing patroles and flanking parties.—The ground through which the left will move being open, the cavalry will form the advanced guard; but Major General Coote will be extremely careful

to

to support them, if attacked.—Two of the six-pounders, now with the reserve, will remain at Mandora, on the right of the redoubt, until Brigadier General Stuart's brigade come up, when they will fall into the line of march.—Two of the six pounders, from Major General Coote's brigade, will join Major General Craddock's this evening.

Four twelve pounders and two howitzers of reserve artillery will follow the advanced guard of each brigade.—The pioneers will open the road for it, when necessary, and every assistance to the seamen will be given.—The dismounted part of the 12th light dragoons will form the rear guards of each wing, following Brigadier General Stuart's and Brigadier General Doyle's brigades.—The reserve will form the advanced guard of the army, and will receive a particular disposition for *their* movements.

The followers of the army, officers servants, and baggage, will follow the rear of the columns, where their respective regiments are.—200 men of the dismounted 26th light dragoons, under the command of Major Moore, will remain at Aboukir until further orders, and receive orders from Colonel the Earl of Dalhousie; the remainder of the dismounted part of the 26th light dragoons, under the command of a field officer, will march to the depôt on the lake, relieve the guard there, and remain till further orders.

As soon as the battalion of marines land, Lord Dalhousie will order the eight battalion companies of the Queen's to join the army. He will detain at Aboukir the two flank companies, under his command, till further orders.—A depôt of musquet-ammunition is forming at the lake, near the commissary general's depôt—The men will fill their canteens previous to marching.

Camp, four Miles from Alexandria,
14*th March*, 1801.

THE Commander in Chief has the greatest satisfaction in thanking the troops for their soldier-like and intrepid conduct in the action of yesterday; he feels it incumbent on him particularly to express his most

most perfect satisfaction with the steady and gallant conduct of Major General Craddock's brigade. And he desires that Major General Craddock will assure the officers and men of the 90th regiment, that their meritorious conduct commands his admiration.—To the 92d and regiment of Dillon's, an equal share of praise is due; and when it has been so well earned, the Commander in Chief has the greatest pleasure in bestowing it.

Sir Ralph Abercromby desires, that Lieutenant Colonel Smith and the battalion of marines will accept his thanks, for their conduct in the course of the service of yesterday at the request of Lord Keith; that corps will march this afternoon to Aboukir, and will place themselves under the command of Colonel the Earl of Dalhousie.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Camp in Front of Alexandria,
March 19*th*, 1801.

THE Commander in Chief trusts that the occurrences which took place yesterday afternoon on the left will serve as a warning to officers commanding detachments not to precipitate themselves with unguarded importunity into enterprizes without object or without use: they will do well to recollect, that in engaging rashly in such enterprizes, advancing without proper support, or pursuing advantages beyond what occasion demands, or prudence warrants, they risque the lives of valuable men and themselves to failure.

No officer is on any account to carry out detachments or picquets, without acquainting the general officer of the day, and obtaining his sanction, or having authority from head quarters so to do.

Patroles as well as fixed posts will be very particular and expeditious in their reports, stating the circumstances as they occur, or the appearance before them minutely.

GENERAL

GENERAL ORDERS.

[French] *Head Quarters, Alexandria,*
20th March, 1801.

THE army will attack the English to-morrow. The whole of the troops will, in consequence, be under arms at three o'clock precisely, without beat of drum, or any kind of noise whatever, at two hundred paces in front of the present camp, beyond the gate of Rosetta.

The general attack will commence an hour and a half before day-break, that is to say, at half past four o'clock. The army will form in the following

Order of Battle:

The division Regnier, composed of the 15th and 85th demi-brigades, will incline its right towards the bridge upon the canal of Alexandria, in front of the camp.

The division of Friant, composed of the 25th, 61st, and 75th demi-brigades, will be on the left of the division Regnier.

To the left of the division Friant, and consequently to the centre, will be the column under the command of General D'Estaing, composed of the 21st demi-brigade, two companies of the 25th, and the Greek grenadiers. This column is intended for the advanced guard.

To the left of the column D'Estaing will be the division Rampon, composed of the 32d demi-brigade, and of three companies of carabiniers, belonging to the second light battalion. This conjointly with the column of D'Estaing will form the centre of the army.

The division of Lanusse, composed of the 4th, 18th, 69th, and 88th demi-brigades, will be to the left of the division Rampon. This division will extend its left to the sea.

It results from this order, that the divisions of Regnier and Friant will form the right wing, the divisions of D'Estaing and Rampon the centre, and the division of Lanusse the left wing of the army.

A light corps will commence a false attack upon the left of the enemy, at the same time that the real attack begins. This corps will be composed of the corps of dromedaries, and of thirty cavalry.

 Three

Three hundred cavalry will be on the right of the army beyond the canal to annoy the enemy, by continually throwing sharp shooters in front. This manœuvre will commence with the false attack made by the dromedary corps, and they will be under the orders of General Regnier.

The remainder of the cavalry of the army will form in rear of the centre.

The artillery of reserve will be in the rear of the cavalry, and in their rear will be the guns.

The grand attack will be made by the right wing of the army, under the command of General Lanusse, and by the centre, commanded by Generals Rampon and D'Estaing: they will advance to the redoubt in front of their position, and carry it by the bayonet; at the same time the right wing of the army, commanded by General Regnier, will keep back a little, until the left of the army be warmly engaged. The centre will support the left; the right will then advance rapidly, attacking and overthrowing every thing that it finds opposed to it.

When the positions on the right and centre of the enemy be carried, and all the first line broken, it will perhaps be necessary that the French army should form again for the attack of their second line, the sharp shooters alone excepted.

This movement upon the second line of the enemy will be commenced by the left wing, which will keep back a little its right, endeavouring to turn the flank of the enemy. The centre will follow this movement, and the right wing will keep in check the whole of the enemy's left. The design of movement is, to drive the English into Lake Maadie.

General Roize, commanding the cavalry, will watch every movement of the enemy, and take advantage of every favourable circumstance, as well as of the nature of the ground, to advance and destroy all that have been thrown into confusion by the infantry. General Jongie will also be attentive to employ the artillery usefully. It will be necessary to keep an eye on the gun-boats on the flanks of the enemy, and perhaps even that he should disperse them with some twelve pounders.

Generals of division will employ both their battering and field artillery

lery in the manner which may appear most advantageous. This relates also to the general commanding the cavalry.

The generals of division will form the heads of their columns of attack, as well as their second line, in the manner which they shall judge most to advantage.

The general in chief will attend to every point, to give the necessary orders, in case any new circumstances should arise.

MENOU, General in Chief.
LA GRANGE, Chief of the Staff.

Head Quarters, near Alexandria,
21*st March*, 1801.

As it is possible the enemy may be desperate enough to make a night-attack, Major General Hutchinson is under the necessity of requesting that the troops may remain with their accoutrements, and lie in their blankets, in the position they are to occupy, in case of an attack.—— General officers will take care not to throw away fire during the dark, but to use the bayonet as much as possible; at the same time they must be fully aware that they are not to follow the enemy, or quit the position which they occupy. Should an attack take place, it is hoped that the greatest silence, order, and regularity, may be observed.

The troops must be fully conscious of the glory they have already acquired, and of their superiority over an enemy, whom they have so often beaten; but at the same time, prudence and discipline must be strongly recommended and enforced. With a little caution, the British army in Egypt will find that they are invincible.

Head Quarters, 24th March, 1801.

MAJOR General Hutchinson has received instructions from the Commander in Chief, to thank the whole of the troops, for their con-

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spicuous and brilliant conduct in the action of the 21st instant; a conduct, which has dismayed an insolent enemy, has raised the glory of their country, and established their reputation for ever. To Major General Moore, Brigadier General Oakes, and the reserve, no acknowledgments are sufficient. Major General Moore has considerably added to the essential service he has already rendered to the army; and the Commander in Chief hopes, that both he and Brigadier General Oakes will soon be enabled to resume their situations, which they have sustained so honourably to themselves, and so usefully to the public.

The 28th and 42d regiments made the noblest stand against a superior force. Colonel Paget is entitled to the highest degree of applause. The support given to the reserve by Brigadier General Stuart, of the 5th brigade, was as gallant as it was prompt, and entirely confirmed the fortunate issue of that brilliant day. Major General Ludlow and the brigade of Guards will also accept the thanks of the General, for the cool, steady, and soldier-like manner, in which they repulsed the attack of the enemy's column.

Major General Hutchinson has sincerely to regret, that a wound, though not dangerous, has deprived the army, for a moment, of the presence of their Commander in Chief, who, in all the different actions, was the first to lead them to danger and glory.

The army will judge of the feelings of General Hutchinson by their own. It will, however, considerably diminish their regret, when they are informed, that the superintending care of the Commander in Chief still watches over them, and that the most sanguine hopes are entertained, that he will soon be restored to perfect health, and resume those functions, which he has already exercised in a manner, which entitles him to the gratitude of his country, and to the admiration of those gallant men, whom he has had the good fortune to command. The army has been deprived of the temporary services of Brigadier General Hope, by a wound which he received in the late action. The general regrets much the absence of that gallant, judicious, and excellent officer.

MEMO-

MEMORANDUM for Colonel STEWART.

8th May, 1801.

COLONEL Stewart will hold his corps in readiness to march to-morrow morning, at half after five o'clock, and he will move as soon as he sees the army begin to quit their ground.

He will march with the British nearly on the line with the Turkish advanced guard, part of which will probably extend to the river: if not, Colonel Stewart will be able to observe their march along the plain.

The present intention is, that the army shall proceed to the calisk or canal of Alexandria. Colonel Stewart will therefore push on to the most favourable ground, nearly on that one; he will of course be very near to Rhamanieh, and he may advance the Arnauts so as if possible to cut off the retreat of the enemy's gun-boats and germs; and if by meeting this night, or earlier in the morning, Colonel Stewart judges that that object would be accomplished without risking the troops, he is at liberty to make the attempt.

A proportion of flat boats for crossing troops is directed to accompany the army: the officer in charge of them will inform Colonel Stewart where they are stationed.

Colonel Stewart will be careful to place centries on any germs which fall into his hands, and will be pleased to exert himself as much as possible to procure a number *to hire* for the service of the commissary.

ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, Lieutenant Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

Camp, near El Hamed,
4th May, 1801.

THE corps under the command of Colonel Stewart consists of the 89th regiment, 20 British cavalry, and a body of Arnauts, amounting to nearly 1500 men.

4th.

4th May. They will pass the river this day, at one o'clock, and proceed to the canal of Berimbal, where they will take post. The village of Berimbal will be occupied by a detachment of Arnauts, and some dragoons as an advanced post.

5th ditto. Colonel Stewart will hold his corps in readiness to march to-morrow morning, at seven o'clock. The cavalry and a detachment of Arnauts will form the advanced guard, which may precede the main body half an hour; the rest of the Arnauts will follow, and after them the British infantry.

Colonel Stewart will move when the head of the column, marching on this side the river, approaches the village of Mehallet, and will continue to regulate his march by it.

5th ditto. Colonel Stewart will halt when his main body reaches the canal in front of Motubis, his advanced guard occupying Shimshery. He will remain there until he receives further orders. If directed to take post, he will send a detachment to occupy a small height on his left, and will send patroles along a road or path which leads from thence towards Foua.

If directed to advance, Colonel Stewart will proceed to Sindion with the main body, taking post there in the most advantageous situation, and covering his post by strong picquets of Arnauts pushed along the river, and in the direction of Foua.

4 Turkish guns with horses.
2 Six pounders }
2 R. howitzers } British,
2 M. 12 pounders }

are allotted to this corps. The light artillery will remain in the boats, until Colonel Stewart orders them to disembark. The road will hardly admit of their moving, till the corps reaches Shimshery. The 12 pounders will not be landed until a battery is formed for them.

Colonel Stewart will press bullocks for the conveyance of his artillery, *giving to the Sheiks receipts* for what he takes.

Captain Chollet and Lieutenant Marley, of the quarter master general's staff, will accompany this column. Guides will be provided in the villages through which the troops pass.

ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, Lt. Col. Quarter Master General.

Foudroyant,

Foudroyant, Bay of Aboukir,
Sir, *5th July*, 1801.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that they have observed with much satisfaction, your spirited and judicious conduct, in the important operation of landing so large a body of men under such disadvantageous circumstances, in Aboukir Bay, on the 8th of March last; and have been directed to make a particular communication of their lordships approbation to you, which is a task the more acceptable to me, as I was so peculiarly sensible of the fruits of your exertions, and personally witnessed the zeal, activity, and intrepidity, with which that important charge was executed by you.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
The Honorable Captain Cochrane, Ajax. KEITH.

Camp before Alexandria,
Auguſt 5th, 1801.

THE battalion of Marines will hold themselves in readiness to embark at the shortest notice; in consequence of which, they are to be struck off the list of public duties.

Major General Finch, in taking leave of Lieutenant Colonel Smith of the battalion of Marines, requests them to accept his warmest thanks for the order, regularity, zeal, and attention, that have uniformly marked their conduct during the time he has had the honour to command them in the first brigade. And he shall be happy on all occasions, to bear testimony to their merit, in the correct performance of every part of their duty which has come under his observation.

Camp

M. G. C. O. *Camp before Alexandria,*
Auguſt 2d, 1801.

PREVIOUS to the junction of the part of the army under the immediate order of Lieutenant General Sir John Hely Hutchinson with this division, Major General Coote feels himself bound to express in the strongest terms, his best thanks for the zeal, activity, and unremitting attention shewn by the troops, seamen, and marines under his command, upon all occasions. He therefore takes this opportunity of testifying to them, how much he feels himself obliged for the readiness and alacrity with which they have at all times obeyed, and even anticipated, any wish or order, which it might have been necessary to issue.

It will always be with much pleasure, that the general will bear a testimony, of the uniform good conduct and behaviour of the troops he has had the honor to command during a long and harrassing period of three months, which reflects the highest credit upon every individual.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Camp before Alexandria,
Auguſt 9th, 1801.

THE army will be brigaded as follows.

Brigade of Guards.

Major General Earl of Cavan
Brigade Major Carey

1*st Brigade of the Line.*

Major General Ludlow Brigade Major Ramsay	25th, 44th—1st and 2d battalions of the 27th.

2*nd Brigade.*

Major General Finch Brigade Major Popham	26th Regiment. 1st and 2d battalion 54th.

3d Brigade

3d Brigade.

Brigadier General Hope Brigade Major Napier	8th Regiment. 18th ditto. 79th ditto. 90th ditto.

4th Brigade.

Brigadier General Stuart Brigade Major Misset	Stuart's. De Rolle's. Dillon's. Watteville's.

5th Brigade.

Brigadier General Doyle Brigade Major Doyle	30th Regiment. 50th ditto. 89th ditto. 92nd ditto.

6th Brigade.

Brigadier General Blake Brigade Major Chatterton	1st and 2nd battalions 20th Reg. 24th, and Ancient Irish Fencibles.

Reserve.

Major General Moore Brigadier General Oakes Brigade Major Groves	Queens—23d—28th—42nd—58th 40th Flank Companies Rifle Corps Corsican Rangers Chasseurs Britannique

There will be no movement of the troops in consequence of this arrangement, they are to do duty as this day brigaded.

The following corps are to remain at Rosetta till further orders. Cavalry, 12th dragoons—22d ditto—and 11th troop, the 13th regiment, and the whole of the field artillery attached to the division of the army encamped near Rosetta.

August 11th. The brigade of guards, Major General Ludlow's, and Major General Finch's brigades, to hold themselves in readiness to move at the shortest notice, in which event all the heavy baggage will be left behind.

15th. Major General Coote is to command the corps under orders for immediate service.

The regiments under the command of Major General Coote will strike their tents to morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and carry them immediately to the place where the boats are assembled, such part of it as cannot be sent away in the first instance, will be left there under charge of a small guard until the boats return, when it will be forwarded to the troops.

GENERAL MORNING ORDERS.

August 16*th*, 1801.

THE corps which are ordered to embark under the command of Major General Coote, will move to the rear at three o'clock this afternoon, to the ground which will be shewn to each brigade by an officer of the quarter-master-general's department: at the same hour, Brigadier General Hope's brigade will march to the ground now occupied by the guards. Brigadier General Doyle's to that between the present encampment of the guards and the lake. The two battalions of the 20th regiment and the ancient Irish Fencibles will form the second line to Brigadier General Doyle's brigade.

GENERAL ORDERS.

THE troops under the orders of Major General Coote will begin to embark this evening at 7 o'clock from the depôt on the canal.

The boats will be arranged in three divisions.

The brigade of guards will embark in the division of boats on the right, which will be under the superintendance of Captain Campbell of the royal navy.

Major General Finch's in the centre division, under the superintendance of Captain Schomberg of the royal navy, and Major General Ludlow's brigade in the left division, under the superintendance of Captain Hylliare of the royal navy.

MAJOR

MAJOR GENERAL COOTE'S ORDERS.

THE several brigades under the orders of Major General Coote will give in embarkation returns as soon as possible to Captain Farquharson, Acting Adjutant General.

The troops will on no account whatever load in the boats, they will keep the utmost silence, and in every particular observe the same regularity and good order as they have done on all former occasions.

The debarkation of the troops will take place as follows:

Rifle corps, brigade of guards, Major General Finch's and Major General Ludlow's.

The rifle corps will as soon as landed occupy the heights in their front.

Major Cookson will make the necessary arrangements for the artillery, attaching two field pieces to each brigade in the first instance, and disembark the remainder as soon as he possibly can.

The general officers will order a certain portion of men to assist in drawing the guns.

The soldiers will carry four days provisions ready cooked, agreeable to the orders of yesterday, and one day's spirits will be issued, the other three to be carried in breakers in charge of the quarter masters of corps.

Commanding officers of regiments will issue the strictest orders, to be particularly careful of the water, and each man to embark with his canteen filled.

The quarter and rear guards, also a picquet of a captain and 50 rank and file, to be warned previous to the embarkation of the troops by each corps.

August 17. *Camp upon the Heights near Marabou.*

THE troops will occupy the ground that will be pointed out to them to night at four o'clock by the deputy quarter-master-general.

Each brigade will furnish a field officer for picquet. The troops will lie upon their arms during the night. The 2d battalion of the 54th regiment will remain on the beach.

Water is found on the left of the 27th regiment. The troops will be under arms to morrow morning at half past three o'clock.

 August

August 22d, near Alexandria.

MAJOR General Coote is highly pleased with the conduct of the whole of the troops in the affair of this day, he is most particularly happy in this opportunity of expressing his warmest feelings for the support he has received from the general officers under his command, they will be pleased to accept his best acknowledgements, for the regularity and precision with which they each led their respective columns. The brunt of the day fell on the artillery under the command of Major Cookson and advanced corps, who used every exertion and shewed much discipline.

The assistance the major general has received from Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, deputy quarter master general, and Captain Farquharson, assistant adjutant general, upon every occasion, calls for the general's most perfect approbation.

Auguſt 23d.

MAJOR General Coote has great pleasure to express his best thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Darby and first battalion 54th regiment, for their unremitting zeal and attention during the attack on the fort of Marabou, and which so considerably accelerated its fall: to Major Cookson and the officers of the royal artillery under his command, also to Captain Ford, chief engineer, the major general feels himself much indebted for their effectual exertions and judicious arrangements.

COPIE *de* LETTRE *ecrite par le General* REGNIER, *au General en Chef* MENOU.

Arrive au Kaire
le 9th Messidor.

Le general de division REGNIER *au general en chef* MENOU.

VOUS n'avez pas bien pensé citoyen general à l'ordre que vous avez donnez pour me faire arrêter et partir sur le brick le Lodi:

Vous n'avez songez aux suittes qu'un acte aussi infame doit avoir pour l'armée pour vous, et à l'indignation generale qu'il excitera.

Votre

Votre conduite indigne est deja connue en Europe ; les faits parlent, et servent seuls a vous juger. Vous avez crû empêcher de faire connoitre au gouvernement tout ce que c'est passé et la veritable situation de l'armée.

Vous avez intrigué inutillement dans la marine, pour que le battiment parti *du Marabou*, ne porte pas de mes lettres. Cependant, il emporte des lettres très detaillés, que j'ai ecrit au Premier Consul : ce n'est pas un officier de Marine qui s'en est chargé mais un homme de l'equipage.

Buonaparte craignoit probablement, que vous ne fissiez les sottises, qui ont causé les malheurs de l'armée, puis qu'il *m'avoit* nominé lieutenant général, et envoyé cet ordre par l'aid de camp Clement, pris pas les Anglois. Vous en aviez probablement reçu l'annonce par le Lodi, mais par une jalousie infame, vous l'avez caché. Cette meme jalousie accompagnée de haine et d'autres motifs vous ont empeché d'écouter mes conseils sur les dispositions militaires. Si vous les aviez suivi, l'armée serait covert de gloire, au lieu de se voir reduite à la situation la plus deplorable, ou vos sottises journalieres la precipitent. Si j'ai resisté a tous les degouts dont vous m'avez eprouvé, et si je n'ai pas cherché a partir pour France, ce que j'ai toujours esperé d'être utile à l'armée : s'il arrives des secours, Buonaparte m'enverra surement des ordres, qui dira t'il de mon depart ? Personellement je devrais desiré d'être éloigné d'un spectacle d'operations aussi degoutantes que les votres des communications avec un homme que je meprise sincèrement.

Ma conduite ici est, et sera connue ; ainsi que mes services passés. Je suis bien assuré qu'arrivé en France, je ne recevrai que des eloges, vous y serez traité comme vous le meritez.

Je vous avez annoncé ce que vient d'arriver au camp de Rhamanieh. Vous n'avez voulu m'ecouter plus que sur les evenemens précedens. Je vous previens actuellement que le General Belliard, reuni au General Lagrange, ne sera peut être assez fort pour battre le Visir, et finira par être forcé dans le Kaire.

Ici toutes les troupes sont campées et retranchées contre tous les bons principes militaires, dans peu il seront attaquées, et avec de la vigueur ; les Anglais pourront profiter d'une moment pour forcer les premieres enceintes d'Alexandrie. Les ouvrages de la place sont negligés pour

pour des traveaux inutiles. Vous devriez songer particulierement a la redoute de Cleopatre, et a l'une près la Porte de Pompée, les armer, et y placer des troupes pour soutenir la retraite, si la camp est forcé.

Ce que importe le plus actuellement c'est de faire une bonne resistance a Alexandria. L'expedition sera inutile aux Anglais, tant qu'ils n'auront cette place: en faisant des bons traveaux et placent bien toutes les troupes, on peu s'y defendre long tems. Si les negotiations sont entamèes on peu d'un moment a l'autre espère l'annonce d'un traite, mais songez que les approvisionements d'Alexandria sont bien faibles, et qu'il ne faut pas attendre, que l'honneur de l'armée soit un fois compromis par une capitulation avilissante.

Vous avez etabli un regime semblable a celui de 93, inconnu jusqu'à presens dans toutes les armées. Par un entêtement inconcevable de faire toutes especes de sottise, vous aves conduit l'armée a un etat deplorable.

Les militaires de bons sens et jusqu'aux soldats, sentent vos fautes: mais n'y voyant pas de remedes, et contenu par les liens de discipline, ils se taisent, d'autres intimidés par toutes les atrocites, n'osent examiner leur situation, un bien petit nombre est assez vil, et ignorant pour les approuver, mais prenez garde à l'explosion, qui et terrible lorsqu'on a été fortiment oprimé. Craignez la pour vous et l'armée toutes vous intrigues pour rejetter vos fautes sur d'autres seront inutiles. L'honneur de l'armée sera vengé: c'est vous même qui avez procuré la victoire aux Anglais, vous seul serez chargé de toute la honte.

Je me tais sur vos procédes infames envers moi. L'armée serait heureux, si comme moi, vous aviez moins songé a ce qui est vous personnel, qu'a la gloire de l'armée et aux interets de la Republique.

This letter was sent by Regnier to his friends at Cairo, from one of whom a copy of it was taken, and remained in the hands of Mr. Rosetti, the Imperial Consul.

Camp,

Camp, Cossire, July 20th, 1801.

MEMORANDUMS for Lieutenant Colonel CARRUTHERS.

YOU will proceed with the detachment under your orders on the evening of the 20th instant to the new wells, distance about eleven miles.

The wells are a little off the road, therefore be careful not to pass them, nor allow your camels and baggage to miss them. An officer's party is stationed at the wells. On your arrival there, which will be about eleven o'clock at night, you should not allow your men to straggle about, or keep each other awake, as a good night's rest will enable them to make the march of the next night with more alacrity. In the morning half a pint of wine should be issued to each man, and their rice, which they must cook for that day and the following.

The men's canteens should be filled with congu, or the water in which rice has been boiled; and just previous to their marching, another half pint of wine should be given them, to mix with their congu. The men should be kept in their tents, and as quiet as possible during the heat of the day.

The mussecks or water bags will be filled up at the wells, if any should have leaked out.

As you will find plenty of water at the wells, of course you will not use any of the water carried from this. But be extremely careful of your mussecks, that they do not get damaged, particularly in lifting them on and off the camels, which ought to be done with a tent pole.

On the evening of the 21st you will proceed half way to Moilah, which is about thirty-three or thirty-four miles from the wells: therefore if you start from the wells at five o'clock in the evening, and march till twelve at night, you will have marched seventeen miles and a half (at the rate of two miles and a half an hour), or half way to Moilah. You will halt there, and in the morning issue half a pint of wine per man, and the rice, which was cooked the preceding day. No water is to be had at this halting place; you will therefore issue to the troops and followers, from your casks and mussecks, a proportion of

water.

water. Two gallons of water for each man is sent with you, with an allowance for leakage. You should therefore in the morning issue a gallon per man, and fill the canteens in the evening before you march. If you find you still have water to spare, you will issue it at your discretion. On the evening of the 22d you will proceed to Moilah, where you will find an officer's party. Water and provisions are to be had there. You will indent on the commissary for two days provisions, to be carried with you, to serve on the way to Legaitte.

If you find your men much fatigued, you may halt one day and night at Moilah, and on the following evening you will proceed to the advanced wells about nine miles beyond Moilah. There you will fill up your mussecks, and cook rice for the following day. Your next march is half way to Legaitte, which is about thirty-five miles from the advanced wells. You will take the same precautions and measures on this march as directed in that from the wells to Moilah; for as there is no water until you arrive at Legaitte, you must carry your provisions cooked for one day, and be very careful of your water. Your next march is to Legaitte, where you find water and provisions. You may halt there a day and night, if you find it necessary. Your two next marches carry you to Ghinna, distance twenty-eight miles.

Every halting day the camel drivers are to receive forty comasses for each camel. The deputy quarter master general will advance the money if you require it—450 comasses are equal to one dollar. You will endeavour to conciliate the drivers as much as possible, lest they desert. One head man will have the charge and direction of them, and you will give your orders through him.

You will write to me from the New Wells, Moilah, and Legaitte, mentioning any inconveniencies or impediments you may have met with, and whether you halt, in order that the succeeding divisions may be guided by it. You will find fresh meat at Moilah and Legaitte, which you will issue to your men, also spirits, as your wine must be used only on marching days. You have with you one gallon of wine for each European soldier, which is to be issued on marching days, at the rate of *one pint* per man.

You will endeavour to dissuade your men from drinking a great quantity

DISEMBARKATION RETURN *of the* TROOPS *under the Command of* MAJOR GENERAL BAIRD, *at* COSSIRE *and* SUEZ.

CORPS.	Officers. Commissioned. Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff. Pay-Masters.	Adjutants.	Quarter-Masters.	Surgeons.	Assistant Surgeons.	Native. Subadaurs.	Jemmidaurs.	Non-Comm. Officers. Rank and File. Conductors.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Lascars. Syrangs.	1st Tindals.	2d Tindals.	Lascars.
Royal Artillery				2										1	1	1	41				
Bengal Horse Artillery				1							1		1	1	6		69		1	3	51
Bengal Foot Do.				2	1						1		1	1	7		74	1	3	3	87
Madras Do.			1	1	2						1				5	2	84	3	6	5	143
Bombay Do.				2	4									2	7	1	133	2	6	5	158
Royal Engineers				1																	
Bengal Do.					1	2															
Madras Do.					1																
Bombay Do.					1																
Madras Pioneers				1									1		4		88				
His Majesty's 8th Light Dragoons				1	2	1			1						4	1	75				
——— 10th Foot		2	2	6	16	5		1	1	1	2				46	18	854				
——— 61st Do.		2	2	9	18	7	1	1	1	1	1				52	22	857				
——— 80th Do.		1	1	3	9	1					2				23	6	314				
——— 86th Do.		2		4	8	1					1				20	11	308				
——— 88th Do.		2	1	5	7	1	1	1	1	1	1				27	19	390				
Bengal Volunteers, Native Infantry				2	10	1		1				6	6		31	11	563				
1st Bombay Regt. Do.		1	1	1	11			1			1	10	10		51	18	717				
7th Do. Do.			1	1	13			1	1	1	1	10	9		48	15	660				
Total		10	9	42	104	19	2	6	5	4	12	26	28	5	332	125	5227	6	16	16	489

PRESENT STATE.

Camp, near El Hamed, *5th October,* 1801.

CORPS.	Officers. Commissioned. Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff. Pay-Masters.	Adjutants.	Quarter-Masters.	Surgeons.	Assistant Surgeons.	Native. Subadaurs.	Jemmidaurs.	Non-Commissioned Officers. Conductors.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File. Fit for Duty.	Sick present.	Sick in Hospital.	On Command.	Total.	Lascars. Officers. Syrangs.	1st Tindals.	2d Tindals.	Fit for Duty.	Sick present.	Sick in Hospital.	Total.	Alterations since Disembarkation. Joined.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Invalided.
Royal Artillery				2										1	1	1	39	2			41												
Bengal Horse Artillery				1							1		1	1	5		63	6			69		1	3	45	6		51					
Bengal Foot Do.					1						1		1	1	7		56	5		14	75	1	3	3	82	4		86		1			
Madras Do.				1	2						1				5	2	77	5			82	3	6	6	112	16	5	133		5			6
Bombay Do.				2	4									2	7	1	95	32	1	3	121	2	6	6	117	10	3	130	3	31	5	1	5
Royal Engineers				1																													
Bengal Do.					1	2																											
Madras Do.					1																												
Bombay Do.					1																												
Madras Pioneers				1									1		4		73	12			85											1	2
His Majesty's 8th Light Dragoons				1	3	1			1		1				4		63	6	1	5	75												
——— 10th Foot		2	2	6	15	4		1	1	1	2				46	18	515	231	29	51	826									27		1	
——— 61st Do.		2	2	10	17	6	1	1	1	1	1				52	22	492	222	24	103	841								1	15		2	
——— 80th Do.		2		3	9	1					2				23	6	211	94	6		311									3			
——— 86th Do.		1		4	8	1					1				20	11	247	41	4		292									16			
——— 88th Do.		2	1	5	7	1	1	1	1	1	1				25	17	240	116	11		367									25		2	
Bengal Volunteers Native Infantry				2	10	1		1	1		1	6	6		31	11	460	86	3		549									7			7
1st Bombay Regt. Do.			1	1	11			1			1	10	10		51	15	582	64		30	676									20		10	11
7th Do. Do.				1	11			1			1	9	9		50	15	276	51	17	255	599									47		12	
Total		9	6	41	101	17	2	6	5	3	14	25	28	5	331	120	3489	936	96	461	5009	6	16	18	356	36	8	400	4	197	5	29	31

DISTRIBUTION.

STATIONS.	Officers. Commissioned. Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff. Pay-Masters.	Adjutants.	Quarter-Masters.	Surgeons.	Assistant Surgeons.	Native. Subadaurs.	Jemmidaurs.	Non-Comm. Officers. Rank and File. Conductors.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Lascars. Syrangs.	1st Tyndals.	2d Tindals.	Lascars.
At Head Quarters, near El Hamed		9	5	39	90	15	2	6	5	3	13	21	25	5	297	107	4452	6	12	18	368
At Giza			1	2	9	2					1	4	3		30	9	442		2		24
On the way to Suez					2										4	4	115		2		8
Total		9	6	41	101	17	2	6	5	3	14	25	28	5	331	120	5009	6	16	18	400

GENERAL STAFF.

Major General Baird,	54th Foot,	Commanding in Chief.
Colonel Auchmuty,	10th Do.	Adjutant General.
Colonel Murray,	84th Do.	Quarter-Master General.
Major Macquarie,	77th Do.	Deputy Adjutant General.
Captain Falconer,	71st Do.	Deputy Quarter Master General.
Captain Molle,	Scotch Brigade,	Private Secretary and A. D. C.
Captain Tucker,	22d Foot,	Major of Brigade to General Baird.
Lieutenant Budgen,	84th Do.	Additional A. D. C. and Muster Master.
Major Harris,	Bombay Infantry,	Auditor of Bombay Accounts.
Captain Michie,	Bengal Volunteers,	Auditor of Bengal and Madras Ditto
Captain Scott,	Madras Artillery,	Commissary of Stores.
Lieutenant Warden,	Bombay Do.	Deputy Commissary of Ditto.
Captain Burr,	Bombay Infantry,	Commissary of Cattle.
Lieutenant Fagan,	Bengal Do.	Boat Master.

T. White, Esq.	Pay Master to the Troops.
T. Shubrick, Esq.	Commissary of Provisions to Ditto.
Mr. Secluno,	Deputy Commissary of Provisions to Ditto.

BRIGADE STAFF.

RIGHT BRIGADE.

Colonel Beresford,	88th Foot,	Commanding.
Captain Trotter,	Ditto	Brigade Major.
Captain Cox (Assist. Q. M. G.)	68th,	Acting Quarter-Master.

LEFT BRIGADE.

Lieutenant Colonel Montresor,	80th Foot,	Commanding.
Lieutenant White (Assist. Q. M. G.)	13th Dragoons,	Acting Brigade Major.
Ditto . Ditto	Ditto	Acting Quarter-Master.

GARRISON STAFF.

Colonel Ramsay,		Commandant of Giza.
Lieutenant Harvey,	80th Foot,	Brigade Major.
Lieutenant M'Donald,	61st Do.	Town Adjutant.
Lieutenant Denoe,	10th Do.	Garrison Quarter-Master.

Lieutenant Colonel Barlow,	61st Foot,	Commandant of Rosetta.

quantity of water, which has been found very hurtful and weakening; and when you are at those stations where water can be had, your men should be marched to the wells to fill their canteens morning and evening, and no more should be allowed. At those places where they cannot cook their victuals, they must be persuaded to eat what was cooked the day before, as they will not otherwise be able to perform the succeeding march through faintness and weakness.

Route from Cossir to Ghinna.

Cossir to the New Wells	11 miles,	water may be had.
Half way to Moilah -	17	no water.
Moilah - -	17	water and provisions.
Advanced wells - -	9	water.
Half way to Legaitte -	19	no water.
Legaitte - -	19	water and provisions.
Baromba - - -	18	water.
Ghinna - - -	10	The Nile.
	120	

J. Montresor, Lt. Col.

GAZETTES.

The following Dispatch, addressed to the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, was received on the 9th of May, 1801, at the Office of the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Troops serving in the Mediterranean.

Camp before Alexandria, March 16th, 1801.

SIR,

ALTHOUGH it was not originally my intention to have commenced the operations of the British army in Egypt on the side of Alexandria, yet circumstances arose that induced me to change my opinion. We were much longer delayed on the coast of Asia Minor than we had at first any reason to apprehend; and we were ultimately obliged to fail from Marmorice in a very imperfect state of preparation. I am fully sensible of the exertions of his Majesty's Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte, as well as of the quarter master general, and the other officers who were sent forward to provide for the necessities of the army. Our delays originated from other causes. For a considerable time previous to our sailing, the weather was extremely boisterous, and the winds contrary. The moment that it became practicable to sail with so large a fleet, Lord Keith put to sea; we left Marmorice on the 22d of February, and came in sight of Alexandria on the 1st of March.

On the 2d the fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay. Until the 7th the sea ran high, and no disembarkation could be effected; on that day every arrangement was completed, and on the 8th the troops forming the first division, consisting of the reserve, under the command of Major General Moore, the brigade of Guards, under the Hon. Major General Ludlow, and part of the first brigade, under the command of Major General Coote, got into the boats early in the morning: they had in general from five to six miles to row, and did not arrive at the point

point of landing till ten o'clock. The front of disembarkation was narrow; and a hill, which commanded the whole, seemed almost inaccessible. The enemy were fully aware of our intention, were in force, and had every advantage on their side. The troops, however, notwithstanding their being exposed to a very severe cannonade, and under the fire of grape shot, made good their landing, ascended the hill with an intrepidity scarcely to be paralleled, and forced the enemy to retire, leaving behind them seven pieces of artillery, and a number of horses. The troops that ascended the hill were the 23d regiment and the four flank companies of the 40th, under the command of Colonel Spencer, whose coolness and good conduct Major General Moore has mentioned to me in the highest terms of approbation. It is impossible to pass over the good order in which the 28th and 42d regiments landed, under the command of Brigadier General Oakes, who was attached to the reserve under Major General Moore; and the troops in general lost not a moment in remedying any little disorder which became unavoidable in a landing under such circumstances. The disembarkation of the army continued on that and the following day. The troops which landed on the 8th advanced three miles the same day; and on the 12th the whole army moved forward, and came within sight of the enemy, who was formed on an advantageous ridge, with his right to the canal of Alexandria, and his left towards the sea. It was determined to attack them on the morning of the 13th, and in consequence the army marched in two lines by the left, with an intention to turn their right flank. The troops had not been long in motion before the enemy descended from the heights on which they were formed, and attacked the leading brigades of both lines, which were commanded by Major General Craddock and Major General the Earl of Cavan.

The 90th regiment formed the advanced guard of the front line, and the 92d that of the second; both battalions suffered considerably, and behaved in such a manner as to merit the praise both of courage and discipline. Major General Craddock immediately formed his brigade to meet the attack made by the enemy, and the troops changed their position with a quickness and precision which did them the greatest honour. The remainder of the army followed so good an example,

 and

and were immediately in a situation not only to face but to repel the enemy.

The reserve, under the command of Major General Moore, which was on the right, on the change of the position of the army, moved on in column, and covered the right flank. The army continued to advance, pushing the enemy with the greatest vigour, and ultimately forcing them to put themselves under the protection of the fortified heights, which form the principal defence of Alexandria. It was intended to have attacked them in this their last position; for which purpose the reserve, under the command of Major General Moore, which had remained in column during the whole of the day, was brought forward, and the second line, under the command of Major General Hutchinson, marched to the left, across a part of Lake Mareotis, with a view to attack the enemy on both flanks: but on reconnoitring their position, and not being prepared to occupy it after it should be carried, prudence required that the troops who had behaved so bravely, and who were still willing to attempt any thing, however arduous, should not be exposed to a certain loss, when the extent of the advantage could not be ascertained. They were therefore withdrawn, and now occupy a position with their right to the sea, and their left to the canal of Alexandria and Lake Mareotis, about a league from the town of Alexandria. I have the greatest satisfaction in saying, that the conduct of the British and foreign troops, under my command, is deserving of the highest praise; their courage and their discipline have been equally conspicuous. To all the general officers I am indebted for their zeal and intelligence. From the Hon. Brigadier General Hope, adjutant general, and Lieutenant Colonel Anstruther, quarter master general, I have received every testimony of zeal, and the most able assistance, in the operations of the army; and to the other officers of the general staff I feel obligations. On the 8th, the arrangements made by Lord Keith were such as to enable us to land at once a body of 6000 troops.

The Hon. Captain Cochrane, and those other captains and officers of the royal navy who were intrusted with the disembarkation not only of the troops, but of the artillery, ammunition, provisions, and stores of all kinds, have exerted themselves in such a manner as to claim the warmest

warmest acknowledgments of the whole army. Sir Sydney Smith, and the other captains and officers of the navy under his command, who landed with the army, have been indefatigable in forwarding the service on which they are employed. The enemy have left a small garrison in Aboukir castle: it has been necessary to bring up a few pieces of heavy artillery, and there is reason to believe that it will speedily surrender.

Majors Mac Karras and Fletcher, of the royal engineers, who went down in the Penelope frigate to survey the coast of Egypt, a short time before we sailed from Marmorice, were unfortunately surprised in a small boat in Aboukir Bay; the former was killed, and the latter taken prisoner. Our communication with the fleet is at present kept up by means of the lake of Aboukir. We have been fortunate enough to find water sufficient for the supply of the army; and we begin to derive some supplies from the country.

I have the honour to enclose herewith returns of the killed and wounded in the actions of the 8th and 13th instant, together with a return of the artillery taken from the enemy on those days.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RA. ABERCROMBY.

P. S. I have had no means of ascertaining the loss of the enemy; but it must have been considerable.

Total on the 8th. 4 officers, 4 serjeants, 94 rank and file, killed; 26 officers, 34 serjeants, 5 drummers, 450 rank and file, wounded; 1 officer, 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 32 rank and file, missing.

Total on the 13th. 6 officers, 6 serjeants, 1 drummer, 143 rank and file, 21 horses, killed; 66 officers, 1 quarter master, 61 serjeants, 7 drummers, 946 rank and file, 5 horses, wounded; one rank and file missing.

Brass and Iron Ordnance captured on the 8th.

Brass in French measure—1 twenty-six pounder, 1 eight pounder, 3 four pounders, 1 six-inch howitzer.

Iron—

Iron—1 nine pounder, 1 six pounder: 1 ammunition-waggon, and a small quantity of shells, shot, and musket ammunition.

(Signed) B. Lawson, Brigadier General,
Commanding the Royal Artillery.

Four field pieces, with a quantity of ammunition, taken on the 13th.

(Signed) John Hope, Adjutant General.

Head Quarters, Camp four Miles from Alexandria, April 5th, 1801.

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to inform you, that, after the affair of the 13th of March, the army took a position about four miles from Alexandria, having a sandy plain in their front, the sea on their right, and the canal of Alexandria (at present dry) and the lake of Aboukir on their left. In this position we remained without any material occurrence taking place till the 21st of March, when the enemy attacked us with nearly the whole of their collected force, amounting probably to 11,000 or 12,000 men. Of fourteen demi-brigades of infantry which the French have in this country, twelve appear to have been engaged, and all their cavalry, with the exception of one regiment.

The enemy made the following disposition of their army: General Lanusse was on their left, with four demi-brigades of infantry, and a considerable body of cavalry, commanded by General Roize; Generals Friant and Rampon were in the center, with five demi-brigades and two regiments of cavalry; General D'Estain commanded the advanced guard, consisting of one demi-brigade, some light troops, and a detachment of cavalry.

The action commenced about an hour before daylight, by a false attack on our left, which was under Major General Craddock's command, where they were soon repulsed. The most vigorous efforts of the enemy were, however, directed against our right, which they used every possible exertion to turn. The attack on that point was begun

with great impetuosity by the French infantry, sustained by a strong body of cavalry, who charged in column. They were received by our troops with equal ardour, and the utmost steadiness and discipline. The contest was unusually obstinate; the enemy were twice repulsed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with our infantry; they at length retired, leaving a prodigious number of dead and wounded on the field.

While this was passing on the right, they attempted to penetrate our centre with a column of infantry, who were also repulsed, and obliged to retreat with loss. The French, during the whole of the action, refused their right. They pushed forward, however, a corps of light troops, supported by a body of infantry and cavalry, to keep our left in check, which certainly was, at that time, the weakest part of our line.

We have taken about two hundred prisoners (not wounded), but it was impossible to pursue our victory, on account of our inferiority of cavalry, and because the French had lined the opposite hills with cannon, under which they retired. We also have suffered considerably; few more severe actions have ever been fought, considering the number on both sides. We have sustained an irreparable loss in the person of our never sufficiently to be lamented Commander in Chief Sir Ralph Abercromby, who was mortally wounded in the action, and died on the 28th of March. I believe he was wounded early, but he concealed his situation from those about him, and continued in the field, giving his orders with that coolness and perspicuity, which had ever marked his character, till long after the action was over, when he fainted through weakness and loss of blood. Were it permitted for a soldier to regret any one who has fallen in the service of his country, I might be excused for lamenting him more than any other person; but it is some consolation to those who tenderly loved him, that as his life was honourable, so was his death glorious. His memory will be recorded in the annals of his country—will be sacred to every British soldier, and embalmed in the recollection of a grateful posterity.

It is impossible for me to do justice to the zeal of the officers, and to the gallantry of the soldiers of this army. The reserve, against whom the principal attack of the enemy was directed, conducted themselves with

with unexampled spirit. They resisted the impetuosity of the French infantry, and repulsed several charges of cavalry. Major General Moore was wounded at their head, though not dangerously. I regret, however, the temporary absence from the army of this highly valuable and meritorious officer, whose counsel and co-operation would be so highly necessary to me at this moment. Brigadier General Oakes was wounded nearly at the same time, and the army has been deprived of the service of an excellent officer. The 28th and 42d regiments acted in the most distinguished and brilliant manner. Colonel Paget, an officer of great promise, was wounded at the head of the former regiments; he has since, though not quite recovered, returned to his duty.

Brigadier General Stuart and the foreign brigade supported the reserve with much promptness and spirit; indeed, it is but justice to this corps, to say, that they have, on all occasions, endeavoured to emulate the zeal and spirit exhibited by the British troops, and have perfectly succeeded.

Major General Ludlow deserves much approbation for his conduct when the centre of the army was attacked; under his guidance the guards conducted themselves in the most cool, intrepid, and soldier-like manner; they received very effectual support by a movement of the right of General Coote's brigade.

Brigadier General Hope was wounded in the hand; the army has been deprived of the service of a most active, zealous and judicious officer.

The loss of the enemy has been very great; it is calculated at upwards of three thousand killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. General Roize, who commanded the cavalry, which suffered considerably, was killed in the field. Generals Lanusse and Bodet are since dead of their wounds. I have been informed, that several other general officers, whose names I do not know, have been either killed or wounded.

I cannot conclude this letter without solemnly assuring you, that, in the arduous contest in which we are at present engaged, his majesty's troops in Egypt have faithfully discharged their duty to their country, and nobly upheld the fame of the British name and nation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. H. Hutchinson.

Head

Head Quarters, Camp at Verdam,
SIR, *July 18th,* 1801.

I HAVE received the Commander in Chief's directions to transmit to you a copy of the general orders issued by His Royal Highness the Duke of York on the 18th of May, together with the resolutions voted by the House of Lords on the 18th of the same month, which he requests you will publish to the troops under your command, with an extract of the orders of the 14th instant issued in the camp before Cairo, a copy of which is also enclosed herewith.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c. &c.
(Signed) J. TAYLOR, Deputy Adjutant General.
To Major General Coote.

Horse Guards, May 18, 1801.

THE recent events which have occurred in Egypt have induced his Majesty to lay his most gracious commands on His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief to convey to the troops, employed in that country, his Majesty's highest approbation of their conduct. And at the same time his Majesty has deemed it expedient, that these his gracious sentiments should be communicated to every part of his army, not doubting that all ranks will thereby be inspired with an honourable spirit of emulation and an eager desire of distinguishing themselves in their country's service. Under the blessing of Divine Providence his Majesty ascribes the successes that have attended the exertions of his troops in Egypt to that determined bravery which is inherent in Britons. But his Majesty desires it may be most solemnly and most forcibly impressed on the consideration of every part of the army, that it has been a strict observance of order, discipline and military system which has given its full energy to the native valour of the troops, and has enabled them proudly to assert the superiority of the national military character, in situations uncommonly arduous, and under circumstances of peculiar difficulty.

The illustrious example of their commander cannot fail to have made an indelible impression on the gallant troops, at whose head crowned with victory and glory, he terminated his honourable career; and his Majesty trusts that a due contemplation of the talents and virtues, which he uniformly displayed in the course of his valuable life, will for ever endear the memory of Sir Ralph Abercromby to the British army.

His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, having thus obeyed his Majesty's commands, cannot forbear to avail himself of this opportunity of recapitulating the leading features of a series of operations so honourable to the British arms.

The boldness of the approach to the coast of Aboukir, in defiance of a powerful and well-directed artillery; the orderly formation upon the beach, under the heaviest fire of grape and musquetry; the reception and repulse of the enemy's cavalry and infantry; the subsequent charge of our troops, which decided the victory, and established a footing on the shores of Egypt, are circumstances of glory never surpassed in the military annals of the world.

The advance of the army on the 13th of March towards Alexandria presents a spectacle of a movement of infantry through an open country, who, being attacked upon their march, formed, and repulsed the enemy; then advanced in line for three miles, engaged along their whole front, until they drove the enemy to seek his safety under the protection of his entrenched position; such had been the order and regularity of the advance.

Upon the 21st of March, the united force of the French in Egypt attacked the position of the British army. An attack begun an hour before day-light could derive no advantage over the vigilance of an army, ever ready to receive it; the enemy's most vigorous and repeated efforts were directed against the right and centre. Our infantry fought in the plain, greatly inferior in the number of their artillery, and unaided by cavalry. They relied upon their discipline and courage. The desperate attacks of a veteran cavalry, joined to those of a numerous infantry, which had vainly stiled itself *invincible*, were every where repulsed: and a conflict the most severe terminated in one of the most signal victories which ever adorned the annals of the British nation.

In

In bringing forward these details, the Commander in Chief does not call upon the army merely to admire, but to emulate such conduct. Every soldier, who feels for the honour of his country, while he exults in events, so splendid and important in themselves, will henceforth have fresh motives for cherishing and enforcing the practice of discipline; and by uniting, in the greatest perfection, order and precision with activity and courage, will seek to uphold and transmit undiminished, to posterity, the glory and honour of the British arms.

Nor is a less useful example to be derived from the conduct of the distinguished commander who fell in the field.

His steady observance of discipline, his ever watchful attention to the health and wants of his troops; the persevering and unconquerable spirit which marked his military career; the splendour of his actions in the field, and the heroism of his death, are worthy the imitation of all, who desire like him a life of honour, and a death of glory.

By order of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief.

(Signed) HARRY CALVERT,
Colonel and Adjutant General.

Downing Street, July 21, 1801.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received at the Office of the Right Honourable Lord Hobart, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K. B. commanding His Majesty's forces in Egypt.

Head Quarters, Camp near Alkam,
June 1, 1801.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inform your lordship, that the French abandoned the position of El Aft on the 7th of May, which we occupied the same evening; and on the 9th we advanced to Rhamanieh, where the French were posted with upwards of three thousand infantry and eight hundred cavalry. We at first imagined that they might have endeavoured to have maintained that position; but our corps, on the eastern bank of the Nile, having got into their rear, took the

the fort of Rhamanieh in reverse, which probably induced the enemy to retire in the night between the 9th and 10th, leaving a garrison in the fort, which surrendered in the morning, amounting to one hundred and ten men, commanded by a chef de brigade. We also took the same day about fifty cavalry and three officers coming from Alexandria.

As the enemy retired towards Cairo, it became necessary to follow them, in order to cover the army of the Grand Vizier, and to secure a junction with the expected reinforcement from India.

Nothing happened of any importance until the 14th, when we fell in with a valuable convoy of germs on the Nile. They had come from Cairo down the canal of Menouff, which joins the Damietta and Rosetta branches of the river. From this circumstance they knew nothing of the retreat of General Lagrange from Rhamanieh. About one hundred and fifty prisoners fell into our hands, and several heavy guns, some of them intended for the defence of Alexandria. The convoy in itself was very valuable, and is a great loss to the enemy. We found on board all kinds of clothing, wine, spirits, &c. &c. and about five thousand pounds in money.

On the 17th, when encamped at Alkam, we were informed by the Arabs, that a considerable body of French, coming from Alexandria, were advancing towards the Nile, near the spot where the boats of the Capitan Pacha then were. The cavalry were immediately ordered out, with two pieces of cannon, under the command of Brigadier General Doyle, supported by his brigade of infantry. Colonel Cavalier, who commanded the French convoy, as soon as he perceived the boats of the Capitan Pacha, suspected that our army must be near, and therefore retired into the desert, where we followed him. The cavalry came up with him, after a march of about three hours. A flag of truce was sent in to them by Major Wilson of the Hompesch, requiring them to surrender, on condition that their private property should be respected, and that they should be sent to France by the first convenient opportunity. With these terms they complied, and laid down their arms. They amounted in all to about six hundred men, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, together with a considerable portion of dromedary corps, one four pounder, and five hundred and fifty camels. The prisoners taken are all Frenchmen, and of the best troops they had in Egypt.

On

On the 17th of May, the enemy retired from the fort of Lisbit, on the Damietta branch, and formed a junction with about two hundred men which they had at Burlos: this fort they also evacuated, and embarked in five small vessels, four of which have been taken and carried into Aboukir Bay: the fifth endeavoured to escape towards Cyprus; but a Turkish frigate was left in chace of her, so that it is more than probable she has shared the same fate.

The garrisons of the two forts consisted of about seven hundred men; so that in all we have taken, from the 9th to the 20th, near sixteen hundred men, which makes a considerable diminution of the enemy's force in this country.

The French made a most extraordinary rapid march from Rhamanieh to Gizah, where they arrived on the 13th, and immediately crossed the river to Boulac.

On the 15th they marched to attack the Grand Vizier's army. His highness anticipated their intention, and made a forward movement with a considerable body of cavalry on the night between the 15th and 16th. The armies remained for some hours in presence of each other, when the Ottoman troops attacked about eight o'clock in the morning, and after an action of seven hours the French retired, having lost between three and four hundred men killed and wounded. They were nearly the same people who had retreated from Rhamanieh, and were about four thousand or four thousand five hundred men.

I congratulate your lordship upon the event of this very important action. I have also much pleasure in informing you, that the Mamelukes, under the orders of Osman Bey (successor of Murad Bey) have joined us, to the amount of about fifteen hundred cavalry, inferior, certainly, to none in the world. I am sanguine enough to hope, that the most serious good effects will arise from this junction, as they have a most intimate knowledge of the country, and the greatest influence amongst the inhabitants. I enclose you the capitulation of the fort of Rhamanieh, and also a return of the killed and wounded on the 9th of May, which I rejoice has been so very inconsiderable.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) John Hely Hutchinson.

To the Right Honourable Lord Hobart.

P. S.

P. S. A letter has just reached me from Lieutenant Colonel Murray, dated, Cossire, the 14th of May, informing me of his arrival with the first division of the Bombay detachment of troops, and that he was in daily expectation of General Baird with the remainder.

Downing Street, August 23d, 1801.

Dispatches (in duplicate), of which the following are copies, have this day been received at the Office of the Right Honorable Lord Hobart, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K. B. transmitted in a letter from the Earl of Elgin, to the Right Honourable Lord Hawkesbury.

Constantinople, May 16th, 1801.

BY advices received this morning from Major Holloway, dated at the camp of the Grand Vizier at Giza, March 20th, 1801, it appears that on the 18th of that month, one thousand Asiatic cavalry advanced from that place, and on the following day one thousand Arab cavalry. This body is to be under the command of Tahir Pacha, as an advanced guard. On its arrival at El Arish, it is to halt a day or two, until Mahomet Pacha arrives with a very considerable part of the army, probably about five thousand men, when Tahir Pacha is to advance to Catièh. It is the Grand Vizier's intention, that these two thousand cavalry should join the British army whenever the Commander in Chief may require it.

It also appears, that Dieggar Pasha has entered into an accommodation of all differences, and ordered five thousand of his troops to join the imperial army, for the purpose of the expulsion of the enemy from Egypt. The first party that joined consisted of about 450 good cavalry, well mounted; and several parties have joined since.

A Letter

A Letter from Lieutenant General Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K. B. to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas.

Camp before Alexandria,
April 20th, 1801.

SIR,

IT is with great pleasure that I am to inform you of the success of a corps of Turks and British under the command of Colonel Spencer. They were ordered from hence about ten days ago, for the purpose of forcing the enemy from the town and castle of Rosetta, which commands the navigation of the Nile. This operation has perfectly succeeded. We are now masters of that western branch of the river, and of course have opened a communication with the Delta, from whence we shall derive all necessary supplies, as the French have scarcely any troops there, and none capable of making a serious resistance.

The enemy had about 800 men at Rosetta, when they were attacked. They made but a feeble effort to sustain themselves, and retired to the right bank of the Nile, leaving a few men killed and prisoners. They left a garrison in the fort, against which our batteries opened on the 16th, and it surrendered on the 19th instant. The conditions are the same as were granted to the castle of Aboukir.

I have many obligations to Colonel Spencer, for the zeal, activity, and military talents which he has displayed in the conduct of this important service; and I beg leave to recommend him as a deserving and most excellent officer. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. H. HUTCHINSON, Major General.

Dispatches received, on the 21st of July, by the Right Honourable Lord Hawkesbury, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from the Earl of Elgin and Major Holloway.

Imperial Ottoman Camp of the Grand Vizier,
Benulhassar, May 20th, 1801.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour of addressing your lordship on the 2d of May from Salahieh, which place his Highness the Grand Vizier left the 7th, and the

the following day arrived at Balbeis, where the advanced corps of his army had been encamped for some time before.

On the 15th instant, his highness received intelligence, that the enemy had early that morning marched a considerable force from Cairo on the road towards Balbeis, where his highness was then encamped. In the evening, a further confirmation of this intelligence was brought, when the enemy was in full march. The Vizier, after dark, ordered Tahir Pacha, with three thousand cavalry, and three light field pieces, to advance to meet them, and if a favourable opportunity offered during the obscurity of the night, to attack; if not, to impede their progress as much as possible. About ten o'clock at night, they met, about three miles from camp, when each halted, and lay on their arms during the night, and until eight o'clock in the morning, at which time Tahir Pacha commenced an attack. He was soon after reinforced by fifteen hundred cavalry. It was now found the enemy had come forward with about fourteen pieces of artillery, six hundred cavalry, and four thousand infantry. His highness therefore ordered Mehemmed Pacha to move forward with five thousand men, cavalry and Albanian infantry, and nine light field pieces; the enemy had eight-pounders in the field. His highness afterwards advanced himself, and took the command, which was attended with the happiest effect.

The enemy moved into a wood of date trees, where they were attacked by the cavalry and infantry with great spirit for three hours, when the enemy retired from the wood, taking position on the plain, their left to the wood, and forming a hollow square on the right. The Albanian infantry advanced to the edge of the wood, and in this situation galled them considerably; and upon the Turkish cavalry threatening their right, they changed position, and attempted to gain the heights, in which they were prevented by a rapid movement of cavalry, who gained the summit. In this manœuvre they were annoyed by two guns, which were advanced by his highness on the occasion. At this time the French commenced a decided retreat, and were driven beyond El Hanka, a distance not less than seven miles from the place of the first operation. The Grand Vizier, who had commanded his troops with great gallantry and prompt decision, then gave orders for them not to pursue any further. The loss on either side, for the time they were engaged, was but

but small. The Turks had about thirty killed, and eighty wounded. The French, I think, had about fifty killed, and one prisoner; the number of their wounded could not be ascertained, as they took them off the field.

The Turkish force engaged on this occasion did not at any time exceed nine thousand.

Whilst I was congratulating his Highness in the field of battle on the success of the day, we received additional satisfaction by the arrival of the intelligence of the capture of Fort Lesbie at Damietta, and two smaller forts depending on it, by a detachment from the Vizier's army. I had the honour of acquainting your Lordship, in my letter of the 2d of May, that his Highness intended sending a force against Damietta. This intention he carried into effect on the 6th, by ordering Ibrahim Pacha, with two thousand five hundred men, and five pieces of artillery, to march immediately for that purpose; and it appears by Ibrahim Pacha's report to the Vizier, that every arrangement had been made for the attack of Fort Lesbie on the morning of the 14th instant, when it was discovered that the fort was evacuated, and the garrison had retired.

I beg leave to inform your Lordship, that during the action of the 16th instant, myself and Major Hope of the royal artillery were in the field with the Grand Vizier, Captain Lacey of the royal engineers with Mehemmed Pacha, and Captain Leake of the royal artillery with Tahir Pacha, to render every assistance in our power.

The combined forces, under Major General Hutchinson and the Captain Pacha, are about five hours distance in the Delta, but are expected here in a day or two. I received a letter from the general this morning, who informs me he has taken a convoy of five hundred and fifty camels, and six hundred French prisoners.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HOLLOWAY, Major Commandant, &c.

 My

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 21.

I HAVE the most sincere satisfaction in forwarding to your Lordship the inclosed dispatch from Lieutenant Colonel Holloway.

The modest and unassuming manner in which this deserving officer has mentioned himself and the British under his orders, imposes upon me the obligation of stating to your Lordship, what I had learnt by their private communication to me from Jaffa and Gaza; that as soon as the determination was formed for the Vizier to advance into Egypt, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway proposed that distribution of the Turkish army, and that order of march, which have effectually insured this unlooked-for success over the French.

The advanced guard was composed of a select body of cavalry, under Tahir Pacha, and of Albanian infantry, under Mehemmed Pacha; the first accompanied by Captain Leake, the second by Captain Lacey, each receiving their orders from Colonel Holloway, who remained near the person of the Vizier.

It is by this well-combined disposition, by the endeavours which were strenuously exercised to prevail upon this corps to disembarrass themselves of their superfluous attendants, and by giving confidence to the Turks in their own means, that Colonel Holloway has been enabled to bring these troops to keep in check, during many hours, a French army of superior force—to counteract its plans—to attack it—to seize every advantage of its positions and of ground; and, after manœuvring with science during seven hours, to repulse it with loss, and gain a complete victory. In the account which the Vizier has sent of the action to the Porte, his Highness speaks in the highest terms of the service done by the artillery, which Major Hope is well known to be so very capable of directing.

(Signed) Elgin.

Extract

Extract of a Dispatch from the Earl of Elgin *to Lord* Hawkesbury, *dated Constantinople, July* 18.

I HAVE the satisfaction of acquainting your lordship, that the inclosed letters to Lord Hobart contain the intelligence of the surrender of Grand Cairo to the combined forces under General Hutchinson, the Vizier, and the Captain Pacha.

Head Quarters, Camp before Gizah,
June 21.

My Lord,

I HAVE nothing new, or of very essential import, to communicate, but I avail myself of the opportunity of a messenger going to Constantinople, to inform you, that we are now encamped near Gizah, which is on the opposite side of the river to Cairo. We mean to erect batteries in the course of twenty-four hours; it cannot hold out long, as it is a very weak place; but it covers a bridge of communication which the French have over the Nile, and it is therefore essential to us to have it in our possession. This operation cannot last above four or five days at most; I then mean to cross the river, and join the army of the Grand Vizier, who is at present encamped very near Cairo. We shall then besiege the place, which is garrisoned by four or five thousand French; but their works are very extended, and would require a much greater number of men to defend them. Great delays have been occasioned in this operation from the low state of the river, and from the bar of the Nile at Rosetta, which is frequently impassable for ten days together, so that our march has been much retarded. The difficulty of procuring provisions for the army, and the obstacles which we encountered in bringing the heavy artillery up the river (which has not yet been entirely accomplished), have been very great. However, we have now a sufficiency to begin the siege.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) Hutchinson.

To the Right Hon. Lord Hobart.

Head Quarters, Camp before Gizah,
My Lord, *June 29.*

THE combined armies advanced on both sides of the river on the 21st instant. The British troops, and those of his Highness the Capitan Pacha, invested Gizah on the left bank of the Nile, whilst the army of his Highness the Grand Vizier moved forward, and took a position nearly within cannon shot of Cairo. On the 22d, in the morning, the enemy sent out a flag of truce, and informed me, that they wished to treat for the evacuation of Cairo, and the forts thereunto belonging, upon certain conditions. After a negociation of several days, which was conducted by Brigadier General Hope with much judgment and ability, they agreed to surrender the town and forts on the conditions which I have the honour to inclose.

We took possession of the gate of Gizah at five o'clock yesterday evening, and also of the Fort Sulkoski, on the Cairo side of the river. Hostages have been mutually exchanged, and the final evacuation will take place in about ten days.

I should suppose that there are near 6000 troops of all kinds in the town; but I speak without a perfect knowledge on the subject, as I have not yet received any returns.

This has been a long and arduous service; the troops, from the great heat of the weather, the difficulty of the navigation of the river, and the entire want of roads in the country, have suffered a considerable degree of fatigue; but both men and officers have submitted to it with the greatest patience, and have manifested a zeal for the honour of his Majesty's arms that is above all panegyric; the conduct of the soldiers has been orderly and exemplary, and a discipline has been preserved which would have done honour to any troops.

I am extremely obliged to Lieutenant Colonel Anstruther, quarter master general, for the great zeal and ability which he has shewn, under very difficult circumstances, in forwarding the public service. From Generals Craddock and Doyle, who were the general officers employed immediately under my orders, I have derived the greatest assistance, and I beg leave to recommend them as highly deserving his Majesty's favour.

The

The exertions of Captain Stevenson of the Navy have been extremely laborious and constant during this long march; they have done every thing that was possible to forward our supplies; and indeed, without their powerful aid, it would have been impossible to have proceeded. Your Lordship will recollect, that the river is extremely low at this season of the year, the mouth of the Nile impassable for days together, and the distance from Rosetta to Cairo between 160 and 170 miles. Captain Stevenson has been ably supported by Captains Morrison, Curry, and Hillyar, who were employed under him. The service in which they have been engaged has not been a brilliant one; but I hope it will be recollected, that it has been a most useful, and has required constant vigilance and attention; it has lasted now for many weeks; the labour has been excessive, and the fatigue greater than I can express.

This dispatch will be delivered to you by my aid de camp, Major Montresor, who has been in the most intimate habits of confidence with me since my arrival in Egypt, and will be able to give your Lordship a most perfect account of the situation of affairs in this country. I beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship's protection, as an officer of merit, and highly deserving of his Majesty's favour.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. H. HUTCHINSON,
Major General.

To the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, &c.

TRANSLATION.

TRANSLATION.

CONVENTION *for the* Evacuation *of* Egypt *by the French and Auxiliary Troops, under the Command of the General of Division Belliard, concluded betweeen Brigadier General Hope, on the Part of the Commander in Chief of the British Army in Egypt; Osman Bey, on the Part of his Highness the Grand Vizier, and Isaac Bey, on the Part of his Highness the Captain Pacha; the Citizens Dongelot, General of Brigade, Morand, General of Brigade, and Tarayre, Chief of Brigade, on the Part of the General of Division Belliard, commanding a Body of French and Auxiliary Troops.*

THE commissioners above named having met and conferred, after the exchange of their respective powers, have agreed upon the following articles:

Art. 1. The French forces of every description, and the auxiliary troops, under the command of the general of division Belliard, shall evacuate the city of Cairo, the citadel, the forts of Boulac, Gizah, and all that part of Egypt which they now occupy.

2. The French and auxiliary troops shall retire by land to Rosetta, proceeding by the left bank of the Nile, with their arms, baggage, field artillery, and ammunition, to be there embarked and conveyed to the French ports of the Mediterranean, with their arms, artillery, baggage, and effects, at the expence of the allied powers. The embarkation of the said French and auxiliary troops shall take place as soon as possible, but at the latest within fifteen days from the date of the ratification of the present convention. It is also agreed, that the said troops shall be conveyed to the French ports abovementioned by the most direct and expeditious route.

3. From the date of the signature and ratification of the present convention, hostilities shall cease on both sides. The fort of ———, and the gate of the Pyramids, of the town of Gizah, shall be delivered up to the allied army. The line of advanced posts of the armies, respectively,

spectively, shall be fixed by commissioners named for this purpose, and the most positive orders shall be given that these shall not be encroached upon, in order to avoid all disputes; and if any shall arise, they are to be determined in an amicable manner.

4. Twelve days after the ratification of the present convention, the city of Cairo, the citadel, the forts, and the town of Boulac, shall be evacuated by the French and auxiliary troops, who will retire to Ibrahim Bey, the isle of Rhoda, and its dependencies, the fort of Foucroy and Gizah, from whence they shall depart as soon as possible, and at the latest in five days, to proceed to the points of embarkation. The generals commanding the British and Ottoman armies consequently engage that means shall be furnished, at their charge, for conveying the French and auxiliary troops as soon as possible from Gizah.

5. The march and encampment of the French and auxiliary troops shall be regulated by the generals of the respective armies, or by the officers named by each party; but it is clearly understood, that, according to this article, the days of march and of encampment shall be fixed by the generals of the combined armies, and consequently the said French and auxiliary troops shall be accompanied on their march by English and Turkish commissaries, instructed to furnish the necessary provisions during the continuance of their route.

6. The baggage, ammunition, and other articles, transported by water, shall be escorted by French detachments, and by armed boats belonging to the allied powers.

7. The French and auxiliary troops shall be subsisted from the period of their departure from Gizah to the time of their embarkation, conformably to the regulations of the French army; and from the day of their embarkation to that of their landing in France, agreeably to the naval regulations of England.

8. The military and naval commanders of the British and Turkish forces shall provide vessels for conveying to the French ports of the Mediterranean the French and auxiliary troops, as well as all French and other persons employed in the service of the army. Every thing relative to this point, as well as in regard to subsistence, shall be regulated by commissaries named for this purpose by the general of division Belliard, and by the naval and military Commanders in Chief of the

the allied forces, as soon as the present convention shall be ratified. These commissioners shall proceed to Rosetta or Aboukir, in order to make every necessary preparation for the embarkation.

9. The allied powers shall provide four vessels (or more if possible), fitted for the conveyance of horses, water-casks, and forage sufficient for the voyage.

10. The French and auxiliary troops will be provided by the allied powers with a sufficient convoy for their safe return to France. After the embarkation of the French troops, the allied powers pledge themselves, that to the period of their arrival on the continent of the French Republic, they shall not be molested; and on his part, the general of division Belliard, and the troops under his command, engage that no act of hostility shall be by them committed, during the said period, against the fleet or territories of his Britannic Majesty, of the Sublime Porte, or of their allies. The vessels employed in conveying and escorting the said troops, or other French subjects, shall not touch at any other than a French port, except in cases of absolute necessity. The commanders of the British, Ottoman, and French troops, enter reciprocally into the like engagements, during the period that the French troops remain in Egypt, from the ratification of the present convention to the moment of their embarkation. The general of division Belliard, commanding the French and auxiliary troops, on the part of his government, engages, that the vessels employed for their conveyance and protection shall not be detained in the French ports after the disembarkation of the troops; and that their commanders shall be at liberty to purchase, at their own expence, the provisions which may be necessary for enabling them to return. General Belliard also engages, on the part of his government, that the said vessels shall not be molested on their return to the ports of the allied powers, provided they do not attempt, or are made subservient to any military operation.

11. All the administrations, the members of the commission of arts and sciences, and in short every person attached to the French army, shall enjoy the same advantages as the military. All the members of the said administration, and of the commission of arts and sciences, shall also carry with them not only all the papers relative to their mission,

sion, but also their private papers, as well as all other articles which have reference thereto.

12. All inhabitants of Egypt, of whatever nation they may be, who wish to follow the French troops, shall be at liberty so to do; nor shall their families, after their departure, be molested, or their goods confiscated.

13. No inhabitant of Egypt, of whatever religion, who may wish to follow the French troops, shall suffer either in person or property, on account of the connection he may have entered into with the French during their continuance in Egypt, provided he conforms to the laws of the country.

14. The sick who cannot bear removal shall be placed in an hospital, and attended by French medical and other attendants, until their recovery, when they shall be sent to France on the same conditions as the troops. The commanders of the allied armies engage to provide all the articles that may appear really necessary for this hospital; the advances to be made on this account shall be repaid by the French government.

15. At the period when the towns and forts mentioned in the present convention ſhall be delivered up, commissaries shall be named for receiving the ordnance, ammunition, magazines, papers, archives, plans, and other public effects which the French shall leave in possession of the allied powers.

16. A vessel shall be provided as soon as possible by the naval commanders of the allied powers, in order to convey to Toulon an officer and a commissioner, charged with the conveyance of the present convention to the French government.

17. Every difficulty or dispute that may arise respecting the execution of the present convention shall be determined in an amicable manner by commissioners named on each part.

18. Immediately after the ratification of the present convention, all the English or Ottoman prisoners at Cairo shall be set at liberty, and the commanders in chief of the allied powers shall, in like manner, release the French prisoners in their respective camps.

19. Officers of rank from the English army, from his Highness the Supreme Vizier, and from his Highness the Capitan Pacha, shall be exchanged for a like number of French officers of equal rank, to serve

 as

as hostages for the execution of the present treaty. As soon as the French troops shall be landed in the ports of France, the hostages shall be reciprocally released.

20. The present convention shall be carried and communicated by a French officer to General Menou, at Alexandria, and he shall be at liberty to accept of it for the French and auxiliary forces (both naval and military) which may be with him at the abovementioned place, provided his acceptance of it shall be notified to the general commanding the English troops before Alexandria within ten days from the date of the communication being made to him.

21. The present convention shall be ratified by the commanders in chief of the respective armies within twenty-four hours after the signature thereof.

Signed in quadruplicate, at the place of conference between the two armies, the 17th of June, 1801, or of the siege of Saffar, 1216, or the 8th Messidor, ninth year of the French Republic.

(Signed) J. Hope, Brigadier General.
Osman Bey.
Isaac Bey.
Donzelot, General de Brigade.
Tarayre, Chef de Brigade.

Approved and ratified the present convention at Cairo, the 9th Messidor, ninth year of the French Republic.

(Signed) Belliard, General de Division.

May 18*th*, 1801.

By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,

Resolved,

THAT the thanks of this house be given to the Honourable Major General John Hely Hutchinson, second in command; Major Generals Eyre Coote, John Francis Craddock, the Hon. George James Ludlow, John Moore, Richard Earl of Cavan, the Hon. Edward Finch; Brigadier Generals John Stuart, John Doyle, the Hon. John Hope, Hildebrand Oakes, and Robert Lawson:—and to the several officers who

who served in the army under the command of the late Sir Ralph Abercromby, Knight of the most noble Order of the Bath, for their splendid and heroic exertions in effecting a landing on the coast of Egypt, in spite of local difficulties, and in the face of a powerful and well-prepared enemy; and in all their subsequent operations, particularly in resisting with signal success the desperate attack made upon them on the 21st of March, and atchieving the brilliant victory obtained on that memorable day.

May 18*th*, 1801.

By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,

Resolved,

THAT this house doth highly approve of and acknowledge the distinguished regularity, discipline, coolness, and valour displayed by the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the army serving under the command of the late Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. in the memorable and brilliant operations in Egypt, and that the same be signified to them by the commanders of the several corps, who are directed to thank them for their distinguished and exemplary conduct.

Camp near Cairo, July 14*th*, 1801.

LIEUTENANT General Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K. B. has received His Majesty's orders to return the general officers and soldiers of the army his thanks for the brilliant services they have rendered their country; and for the manner in which they sustained and encreased the honour of the British name, and the glory of the British arms.——You landed in Egypt to attack an enemy superior in numbers, provided with a formidable body of cavalry and artillery, accustomed to the climate, flushed with former victory, and animated by a consciousness of hard and well-earned renown. Notwithstanding these advantages, you have constantly seen a warlike and victorious enemy fly before you, and you are now in possession of the capital. Such are the effects of order, discipline, and obedience; without which, even courage itself must be unavailing, and success can be but momentary.

Such also are the incitements, which ought to induce you to persevere in a conduct which has led you to victory; has acquired you the applause of your sovereign, the thanks of parliament, and the gratitude of your country.

To such high authorities it would be superfluous in me to add my testimony; but be assured your services and conduct have made the deepest impression on my heart, and never can be eradicated from my memory. During the course of this arduous undertaking, you have suffered some privations, which you have borne with the firmness of men and the spirit of soldiers. On such painful occasions, no man has ever felt more sensibly than I have done. But you yourselves must know, that they are the natural consequences and effects of war, which no human prudence can obviate; every exertion has been made to diminish their extent and duration; they have ceased, and I hope are never likely to return.

Nothing now remains to terminate your glorious career, but the final expulsion of the French from Egypt; an event, which your country anticipates, and a service, which, to such troops as you are, can neither be doubtful or difficult. The prevalence of contrary winds has prevented the arrival of ships from England with money: Your pay has been in arrear; but this inconvenience is now at an end, and every thing that is due shall be put in a course of payment, and discharged as soon as possible.

Extract of a Letter from Sir John Hely Hutchinson, *K. B. to the Earl of* Elgin, *dated Head Quarters, Camp before Alexandria, August 27th,* 1801.

I JUST seize the opportunity of a messenger going to Constantinople (dispatched by the Capitan Pacha), to inform your Excellency, that General Menou offered last night to capitulate for the town and forts of Alexandria, and demanded an armistice of three days for the purpose of arranging the terms of the capitulation; this I have granted accordingly.

On

On the 21st of October, a Dispatch in Duplicate was received from Sir JOHN HELY HUTCHINSON, *K. B. at the Office of the Right Honourable Lord* HOBART, *one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, dated Head Quarters, Camp before Alexandria, September 5th,* 1801.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that the forts and town of Alexandria have surrendered to His Majesty's troops, who, on the 2d instant, took possession of the entrenched camp, the heights above Pompey's Pillar, the redoubt de Bain, and the fort Triangular. By the capitulation the garrison are to be embarked for France in the course of ten days, provided the shipping is in a state of preparation to receive them. The operations against the enemy's works commenced on the 17th August.

Major General Coote embarked with a strong corps on the inundation in the night between the 16th and 17th of August. He effected his landing to the westward of Alexandria with little or no opposition, and immediately invested the strong castle of Marabout, situate at the entrance of the western harbour of Alexandria.

On the east side of the town, two attacks were made to get possession of some heights in front of the entrenched position of the enemy. I entrusted the conduct of the attack against their right to Major General Craddock, and that against their left to Major General Moore. Those two officers perfectly executed my intentions, and performed the service committed to their care with much precision and ability. The action was neither obstinate or severe, and our loss is but small; but it afforded one more opportunity to display the promptness of British officers, and the heroism of British soldiers. A part of General Doyle's brigade, the 30th regiment (but under the immediate command of Colonel Spencer), had taken possession of a hill in front of the enemy's right. General Menou, who was in person in that part of the French intrenched camp, directly opposite to our post, ordered about six hundred men to make a sortie, to drive us from our position. The enemy advanced in column with fixed bayonets without firing a shot, till they got very close

close to the 30th regiment, to whom Colonel Spencer gave an immediate order to charge, though they did not consist of more than two hundred men: he was obeyed with a spirit and determination worthy the highest panegyric. The enemy were driven back to their intrenchments in the greatest confusion; they had many killed and wounded, and several taken prisoners.

On the night, between the 18th and 19th, Major General Coote opened batteries against the Castle of Marabout; an attack was also made from the sea by several Turkish corvettes, and the launches and boats of the fleet under the command of the Honourable Captain Cochrane: great perseverance and exertions were required to get up heavy guns, through a difficult and almost impracticable country; but the troops executed this painful and arduous service with such zeal and continued firmness, that the fort capitulated in the night of the 21st: the garrison consisted of about one hundred and eighty men, and were commanded by a chef de brigade.

On the morning of the 22d, Major General Coote marched from Marabout, to attack a strong corps posted in his front, in order to cover the approach to Alexandria: the managements of that excellent officer appear to have been able and judicious, and were attended with the most complete success; he drove the enemy every where, though strongly posted, and in a country which opposed uncommon obstacles to the progress of troops. The French suffered extremely in the action, and retreated in much confusion, leaving their wounded and seven pieces of cannon behind them.

On the 24th, batteries were opened against the redoubt de Bain; and on the 25th, at night, Major General Coote surprized the enemy's advanced posts, when seven officers and fifty men were taken prisoners; this service was gallantly performed by Lieutenant Colonel Smith, with the 1st battalion of the 20th regiment, and a small detachment of dragoons under the orders of Lieutenant Kelly of the 26th. The enemy endeavoured to regain possession of the ground from which they had been driven, but were repulsed with loss.

On the morning of the 26th we opened four batteries on each side of the town against the entrenched camp of the French, which soon silenced their fire, and induced them to withdraw many of their guns.

On

On the 27th, in the evening, General Menou sent an aid-de-camp to request an armistice for three days, in order to give time to prepare a capitulation, which, after some difficulties and delays, was signed on the 2d of September.

I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the capitulation, and also a list of the number of persons for whom the enemy have required shipping; by this it appears, that the total of the garrison of Alexandria consisted of upwards of 8000 soldiers and 1300 sailors.

This arduous and important service has at length been brought to a conclusion. The exertions of individuals have been splendid and meritorious. I regret that the bounds of a dispatch will not allow me to specify the whole, or to mention the name of every person who has distinguished himself in the public service. I have received the greatest support and assistance from the general officers of the army. The conduct of the troops of every description has been exemplary in the highest degree; there has been much to applaud and nothing to reprehend; their order and regularity in the camp have been as conspicuous as their courage in the field. To the quarter master general, Lieutenant Colonel Anstruther, I owe much for his unwearied industry and zeal in the public service, and for the aid, advice, and co-operation which he has at all times afforded me. Brigadier General Lawson, who commanded the artillery, and Captain Bryce, the chief engineer, have both great merit in their different departments. The local situation of Egypt presents obstacles of a most serious kind to military operations on an extended scale. The skill and perseverance of these two officers have overcome difficulties which at first appeared almost insurmountable.

Lieutenant Colonel Lindenthal, who has always acted with the Turks, deserves my utmost acknowledgments; his activity and diligence have been unremitted, and he has introduced amongst them an order and regularity which does him the highest honour.

During the course of the long service on which we have been engaged, Lord Keith has at all times given me the most able assistance and counsel. The labour and fatigues of the navy have been continued and excessive; it has not been of one day, or of one week, but for months together. In the Bay of Aboukir, on the new Inundation, and on the Nile, for one hundred and sixty miles, they have been employed

without

without intermission, and have submitted to many privations with a chearfulness and patience highly creditable to them, and advantageous to the public service.

Sir Sidney Smith had originally the command of the seamen who landed from the fleet; he continued on shore till after the capture of Rosetta, and returned on board the Tigre a short time before the appearance of Admiral Gantheaume's squadron on the coast. He was present in the three actions of the 8th, 13th, and 21st of March, when he displayed that ardour of mind for the service of his country, and that noble intrepidity for which he has been ever so conspicuous. Captain Stevenson, of the Europa, succeeded him, and I have every reason to be satisfied with his zeal and conduct. The crews of the gun boats displayed great gallantry, under his guidance in the new inundation; and much approbation is also due to the naval officers who acted under his orders.

Captain Presland, of the Regulus, has had the direction for many months past of all Greek ships in our employment, and of those belonging to the commissariat. He has been active, zealous, and indefatigable, and merits my warmest approbation. I must therefore beg leave particularly to recommend this old and meritorious officer to your Lordship's protection.

Allow me to express an humble hope, that the army in Egypt have gratified the warmest wishes and expectations of their country. To them every thing is due, and to me nothing. It was my fate to succeed a man who created such a spirit, and established such a discipline amongst them, that little has been left to me to perform, except to follow his maxims, and to endeavour to imitate his conduct.

This dispatch will be delivered to your Lordship by Colonel Abercromby, an officer of considerable ability, and worthy of the great name which he bears. He will one day, I trust, emulate the virtue and talents of his never-to-be-sufficiently lamented father.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Major General COOTE, *to Lieutenant General, the Honourable Sir* JOHN HELY HUTCHINSON, *&c. &c. &c. dated, Camp, West of Alexandria, August 23d,* 1801.

SIR,

CAPTAIN Cochrane, with seven sloops of war, having entered into the western harbour of Alexandria, on the evening of the 21st instant, and anchored on my left flank, I immediately determined to move forward, and take as advanced a position near the town of Alexandria, as prudence and security would permit.

The necessary arrangements having been made, in the morning of the 22d, the troops advanced against the enemy, who was strongly posted upon a ridge of high hills, having his right flank secured by two heavy guns, and his left by two batteries containing three more, with many field-pieces placed in the intervals of his line.

The army moved through the sand hills in three columns, the guards forming two upon the right near the lake, and Major General Ludlow's brigade the third upon the left, having the first battalion of the 27th regiment in advance, Major General Finch's brigade composed a reserve, and was destined to give its support wherever it might be required.

In this manner, having our field artillery with the advanced guard, the troops continued to move forward with the greatest coolness and regularity, under a very heavy fire of cannon and small arms, forcing the enemy to retreat constantly before them, and driving them to their present position within the walls of Alexandria.

Major Generals, Ludlow, Earl of Cavan, and Finch, upon this as upon all other occasions, have given me all possible support, and deserve every commendation for the precision and regularity, with which they led on their respective columns.

The exertions of the captains commanding the ships of war upon our left, and of the officers commanding the gun-boats upon our right, were attended with the best effect, their continued and unremitting fire kept the enemy in check.

To Captain Cochrane I feel extremely obliged for his zeal and constant readiness to afford every assistance in his power. Captain Steven-

 son,

son, who commanded the gun-boats upon the lake, also calls for my earnest approbation of his conduct.

Permit me, Sir, to repeat to you the intrepid and gallant behaviour of the whole of the troops during the affair of yesterday, which lasted from six until ten o'clock in the morning. Their bravery was only equalled by the cool and regular manner in which they advanced under a severe and heavy canonade. Happy I am to add, that our loss is only trifling, when compared to the advantages we have gained, and the difficulties we had to surmount, in a country, which at every step afforded the enemy the means of making the most desperate resistance.

The loss of the enemy must have been considerably greater than ours. It is impossible for me to ascertain the numbers. Seven pieces of heavy ordnance were left behind by the French in the hurry of their retreat, and have fallen into our hands.

I feel much indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, quarter master general, for his judicious arrangements, and for his conduct during the whole of yesterday; he deserves my sincere thanks.

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit a return of the killed and wounded, &c.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) EYRE COOTE, Major General.

JAMES KEMPT, Lieutenant Colonel and Secretary.

SIR, *Camp, West of Alexandria, August* 23*d*, 1801.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the summons, as also the articles of capitulation of the fort of Marabou.

The speedy and fortunate reduction of that post, so important to our fleets, was, I am happy to say, effected without any loss on our side, and calls upon me to lay before you the unremitting zeal and attention of Lieutenant Colonel Darby, who, with the first battalion of the 54th regiment, covered the attack; the very judicious manner in which he posted the light company of that corps, who, by being placed on an adjoining

joining rock, silenced the guns by their musquetry, greatly accelersted the fall of the fort.

I also feel myself indebted for the effectual exertions of Major Cookson, of the royal artillery, and for the prompt arrangements of Captain Ford, the commanding engineer.

I beg to transmit a return of the prisoners taken, as also the ordnance and stores found in the fort.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) Eyre Coote, Major General.

James Kempt, Lieut. Col. and Secretary.

SUMMONS of the Fort of MARABOU.

Sir, *Camp, 21st August,* 1801.

AS after the event of this day, and the means employed against the fort you command, there remain no hopes of your being able to defend it, or even to retire into Alexandria, I summon you, in the name of humanity, to surrender on the terms which shall be granted you ; otherwise you will be answerable for all the consequences that may ensue, being determined to employ the whole of the British and Ottoman forces under my command to compel you to surrender.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) Eyre Coote, Major General.

To the Officer commanding
Fort Marabou.

ANSWER.

Fort Marabou, 3d *Fructidor,*
An. 9, (1801.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the terms of capitulation which the garrison of Marabou require ; and from the generosity which characterizes your nation, I promise myself that you will agree to them.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) Etienne.

Capitulation *of the* Fort *of* Marabou.

Art. 1. The garrison demand to march out with the honours of war

Answer.—The garrison shall march out with the honours of war, and after having grounded their arms on the glacis, shall be prisoners of war.

Art. 2. They shall preserve their baggage.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. 3. The officers shall have their swords and sabres.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. 4. The garrison shall be conveyed into France, and treated during the voyage, each agreeably to his rank, conformably to the maritime laws of England.

Answer.—Answered by the first article; the garrison shall be conveyed to France, but shall not serve till they are exchanged.

Art. 5. Such individuals as may have effects at Alexandria, shall have full permission to bring them away.

Answer.—Answered, with the restrictions that shall be made by the officers, commanding the land and sea forces of England.

Art. 6. An officer shall be sent from the garrison to the General in Chief, to communicate to him the present capitulation.

Answer.—A French officer shall be sent to Alexandria by sea. A detachment of British forces shall take possession of the fort of Marabou, immediately after the ratification of the present capitulation. The garrison shall march out to-morrow morning, and after having deposited their arms on the glacis, shall be embarked in English vessels.

Done at Fort Marabou, the 3d Fructidor, the 9th year of the French Republic.

(Signed) Etienne, the Chief of Battalion.

Ratified, conformably to the powers delegated to me by Major General Coote, and Captain Cochrane, of the Royal Navy.

(Signed) Chris. Darby, Lieut. Col. 54th Regiment.

Sir,

Camp, West of Alexandria, August 26th, 1801.

SIR,

BEING anxious to push my picquets upon the left as far as possible towards the enemy's advanced work, the Redoubt de Bain, I directed Lieutenant Colonel Smith, with the first battalion of the 20th regiment, assisted with a small detachment of the 26th light dragoons, commanded by Lieutenant Kelly, to attack and drive in the French outposts upon the right of their position. He was to be supported by a battalion of infantry, disposed for that purpose on the sand hills.

Soon after dark last night, Lieutenant Colonel Smith commenced the attack, by turning the left of the enemy's picquets, and scouring the hills as he advanced.

The cool and spirited conduct of that officer, and the corps under his command, as also the detachment of the 26th dragoons, is well deserving of praise; not a man attempted to load, and the whole was effected by the bayonet. The loss of the enemy in this affair amounted to upwards of one hundred men, killed, wounded, and taken; of the latter I inclose the return.

This service was performed on our side with the loss of only three men slightly wounded, and has placed me in a situation to erect a battery within about 600 yards of the Redoubt de Bain.

The enemy, however, extremely exasperated at our success, made several attempts to regain the ground he had lost; with this view he kept up a very heavy fire of cannon and musquetry for about an hour; when, finding all his endeavours ineffectual, he retired, leaving us peaceful possessors of the advantage we had gained in the early part of the night.

Inclosed is a return of our loss in the latter part of the affair.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) EYRE COOTE, Major General.

Return

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of the Army under the Command of Lieutenant General Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K. B. at the Siege of Alexandria.

Camp, August 29, 1801.

On the 17th, 22d, 23d, and 25th August: general total, 13 rank and file, 3 horses, killed; 6 officers, 4 serjeants, 1 drummer, 113 rank and file, wounded.

JOHN ABERCROMBY, Adjutant General.

ARTICLES *of the* CAPITULATION *proposed by Abdoullah Jacques Francois Menou, General in Chief of the French Army now in Alexandria, to the Generals commanding the Land and Sea Forces of his Britannic Majesty, and of the Sublime Porte, forming the Blockade of Alexandria, dated the* 12*th Fructidor, Year Nine of the French Republic,* (30*th of August,* 1801.)

Art. 1. FROM the present date to the 30th Fructidor (17th of Sept. 1801), there shall be a continuation of the truce and suspension of arms between the French army and the combined armies of his Britannic Majesty, and of the Sublime Porte, upon the same conditions with those which actually subsist, with the exception of a regulation to be amicably settled between the respective generals of the two armies, for establishing a new line of advanced posts, in order to remove all pretext of hostility between the troops.

Answer.—Refused.

Art. 2. In case no adequate succour should arrive to the French army before the day mentioned in the preceding article, that army shall evacuate the forts and entrenched camps of Alexandria upon the following conditions.

Answer.—Refused.

Art. 3. The French army shall retire on the first complementary day of the French æra, into the city of Alexandria, and forts adjacent, and shall

shall deliver up to the allied powers the entrenched camp in front of the lines of the Arabs, the Fort Le Turc, and the Fort Du Vivier, together with their artillery and ammunition.

Answer.—In forty-eight hours after the signing of the capitulation, namely, on the 2d of September, at noon, the entrenched camp, the Fort Turc, and that of Du Vivier, shall be delivered up to the allied powers. The ammunition and artillery of these forts shall be also delivered up. The French troops shall evacuate the city, forts, and dependencies of Alexandria ten days after signing the capitulation, or at the time of their embarkation.

Art. 4. All individuals, constituting a part of the French army, or attached to it by any relations, civil or military, the auxiliary troops of every nation, country, or religion, of whatever powers they might have been subjects before the arrival of the French, shall preserve their property, of every description, their effects, papers, &c. &c. which shall not be subject to any examination.

Answer.—Granted; provided that nothing be carried away belonging to the government of the French Republic; but only the effects, baggage, and other articles belonging to the French and auxiliary soldiers who have served during six months in the army of the Republic; the same is to be understood of all the individuals attached to the French army, by civil or military capacities, of whatever nation, country, or religion they may be.

Art. 5. The French forces, the auxiliary troops, and all the individuals described in the preceding article, shall be embarked in the ports of Alexandria, between the 5th and the 10th of Vendemiare, year Ten of the Republic, at the latest (27th of September to the 3d of October, 1801), together with their arms, stores, baggage, effects, and property of all kinds, official papers, and deposits, one field piece to each battalion and squadron, with ammunition, &c. &c. &c. the whole to be conveyed to one of the ports of the French Republic in the Mediterranean, to be determined by the General in Chief of the French army.

Answer.—The French forces, the auxiliary troops, and all the individuals described in the 4th article, shall be embarked in the ports of Alexandria (unless after an amicable convention it should be found

more

more expeditious to embark a part of them at Aboukir), as soon as vessels can be prepared, the allied powers at the same time engaging that the embarkation shall take place, if possible, ten days after the capitulation shall be signed ; they shall receive all the honours of war, shall carry away their arms and baggage, shall not be prisoners of war, and shall moreover take with them ten pieces of cannon, from four to eight pounders, with ten rounds of shot to each gun; they shall be conveyed to a French port in the Mediterranean.

Art. 6. The French ships of war, with their full complement, and all merchant ships, to whatever nation or individuals they may belong, even those of nations at war with the allied powers, or those that are the property of owners or merchants, who were subjects of the allied powers before the arrival of the French, shall depart with the French army, in order that those that are ships of war may be restored to the French government, and the merchant ships to their owners, or to their assignees.

Answer.—Refused. All vessels shall be delivered up as they are.

Art. 7. Every single ship that, from the present day to the 30th Fructidor, shall arrive from the French Republic, or any of her allies, into the ports or roads of Alexandria, shall be comprehended in this capitulation. Every ship of war or commerce, belonging to France, or to the allies of the Republic, that shall arrive in the port or road of Alexandria within the twenty days immediately following the evacuation of that place, shall not be considered as lawful prize, but shall be set at liberty, with her equipage and cargo, and be furnished with a passport from the allied powers.

Answer.—Refused.

Art. 8. The French and auxiliary troops, the civil and military agents, attached to the army, and all other individuals described in the preceding articles, shall be embarked on board some French or other vessels, actually in the ports of Alexandria, as shall be in a condition to go to sea, or on board those of his Britannic Majesty, and of the Sublime Porte, within the time fixed by the 5th article.

Art. 9. Commissioners shall be named by each party to regulate the number of vessels to be employed, the number of men to be embarked upon them, and generally to provide for all the difficulties that may arise

arise in carrying into execution the present capitulation. Those commissioners shall agree upon the different positions which shall be taken by the ships now in the port of Alexandria, and those which shall be furnished by the allied powers, so that by a well-regulated arrangement, every occasion of difference between the crews of the several nations may be avoided.

Answer.—All these details will be regulated by the English admiral and by an officer of the French navy, named by the General in Chief.

Art. 10. Merchants and owners of ships, of whatever nation or religion they may be, and also the inhabitants of Egypt, and of every other country, who may at the present time be in Alexandria, whether Syrians, Copths, Greeks, Arabs, Jews, &c. and who shall be desirous of following the French army, shall be embarked with, and enjoy the same advantage with that army; they shall be at liberty to remove their property of all kinds, and to leave power for the disposal of what they may not be able to take away. All arrangements, all sales, all stipulations, whether of commerce or of any other nature made by them, shall be strictly carried into effect after their departure, and be maintained by the generals of his Britannic Majesty, and of the Sublime Porte. Those who may prefer remaining in Egypt a certain time, on account of their private affairs, shall be at liberty so to do, and shall have full protection from the allied powers; those also who may be desirous of establishing themselves in Egypt, shall be entitled to all the privileges and rights of which they were in possession before the arrival of the French.

Answer.—Every article of merchandize, whether in the town of Alexandria, or on board the vessels that are in the ports, shall be provisionally at the disposition of the allied powers; but subject to such definitive regulation as may be determined by established usage, and the law of nations. Private merchants shall be at liberty to follow the French army, or they may remain in the country in security.

Art. 11. None of the inhabitants of Egypt, or of any other nation or religion, shall be called to account for their conduct during the period of the French troops having been in the country, particularly for having taken arms in their favour, or having been employed by them.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. 12.

Art. 12. The troops, and all others who may be embarked with them, shall be fed during their passage, and until their arrival in France, at the expence of the allied powers, and conformably to the rules of the French navy. The allied powers shall supply every thing that may be necessary for the embarkation.

Answer.—The troops, and all others who may be embarked with them, shall be fed during their passage, and until their arrival in France, at the expence of the allied powers, according to the usage established in the marine of England.

Art. 13. The consuls and all other public agents, of the several powers in alliance with the French Republic, shall continue in the enjoyment of all the privileges and rights which are granted by civilized nations to diplomatic agents. Their property, all their effects and papers, shall be respected, and placed under the protection of the allied powers; they shall be at liberty to retire or to remain, as they may think fit.

Answer.—The consuls and all other public agents of the powers in alliance with the French Republic, shall be at liberty to remain or to retire, as they may judge fit. Their property and effects of any kind, together with their papers, shall be preserved for them, provided they conduct themselves with loyalty, and conformably to the law of nations.

Art. 14. The sick who may be judged by the medical staff of the army to be in a state for removal, shall be embarked at the same time with the army, upon hospital ships properly furnished with medicines, provisions, and every other store that may be necessary for their situation; and they shall be attended by French surgeons. Those of the sick who may not be in a condition to undertake the voyage, shall be delivered over to the care and humanity of the allied powers. French physicians and other medical assistance shall be left for their care, to be maintained at the expence of the allied powers, who shall send them to France as soon as their state of health may permit, together with any thing belonging to them, in the same manner as has been proposed for the rest of the army.

Answer.—Granted. The ships destined for hospitals shall be prepared for the reception of those who may fall sick during the passage. The medical staff of the two armies shall concert together in what manner

ner to dispose of those of the sick, who, having contagious disorders, ought not to have communication with the others.

Art. 15. Horse transports for conveying sixty horses, with every thing necessary for their subsistence during the passage, shall be furnished.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. 16. The individuals composing the Institute of Egypt, and the Commission of Arts, shall carry with them all the papers, plans, memoirs, collections of natural history, and all the monuments of art and antiquity, collected by them in Egypt.

Answer.—The members of the Institute may carry with them all the instruments of arts and science, which they have brought from France; but the Arabian manuscripts, the statues, and other collections which have been made for the French Republic, shall be considered as public property, and subject to the disposal of the generals of the combined army.

General Hope having declared, in consequence of some observations of the Commander in Chief of the French army, that he could make no alteration in this article, it has been agreed that a reference thereupon should be made to the Commander in Chief of the combined army.

Art. 17. The vessels which shall be employed in conveying the French and auxiliary army, as well as the different persons who shall accompany it, shall be escorted by ships of war belonging to the allied powers, who formally engage that they shall not, in any manner, be molested during their voyage; the safety of such of these vessels as may be separated by stress of weather, or other accidents, shall be guaranteed by the generals of the allied forces; the vessels conveying the French army shall not, under any pretence, touch at any other than the French coast, except in case of absolute necessity.

Answer.—Granted. The Commander in Chief of the French army entering into a reciprocal engagement that none of these vessels shall be molested during their stay in France, or on their return; he equally engaging that they shall be furnished with every thing which may be necessary, according to the constant practice of European powers.

Art. 18. At the time of giving up the camps and forts according

 to

to the terms of the third article, the prisoners in Egypt shall be respectively given up on both sides.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. 19. Commissioners shall be named to receive the artillery of the place and of the forts, stores, magazines, plans, and other articles that the French leave to the allied powers; and lists and inventories shall be made out, signed by the commissaries of the different powers, according as the forts and magazines shall be given up to the allied powers.

Answer.—Granted. Provided that all the plans of the city and forts of Alexandria, as well as all maps of the country, shall be delivered up to the English commissary. The batteries, cisterns, and other public buildings, shall also be given up in the condition in which they actually are.

Art. 20. A passport shall be granted to a French armed vessel, in order to convey to Toulon, immediately after the camps and forts before-mentioned shall be given up, officers charged by the Commander in Chief to carry to his government the present capitulation.

Answer.—Granted. But if it is a French vessel it shall not be armed.

Art. 21. On giving up the camps and forts mentioned in the preceding articles, hostages shall be given on both sides, in order to guarantee the execution of the present treaty. They shall be chosen from among the officers of rank in the respective armies: namely, four from the French army, two from the British troops, and two from the troops of the Sublime Porte. The four French hostages shall be embarked on board the English ship, commanding the squadron; and the four British and Turkish hostages on board one of the vessels which shall carry the Commander in Chief, or the lieutenant generals. They shall all be reciprocally delivered up on their arrival in France.

Answer. There shall be placed in the hands of the Commander in Chief of the French army, four officers of rank as hostages: namely, one officer of the navy, one officer of the British army, and two officers of the Turkish army. The Commander in Chief shall, in like manner, place in the hands of the Commander in Chief of the British army four officers of rank. The hostages shall be restored on both sides at the period of the embarkation.

Art. 22. If any difficulties should arise during the execution of the present capitulation, they shall be amicably settled by the commissaries of the armies.

Answer.—Granted.

(Signed) Keith, Admiral.
J. Hely Hutchinson, Lieutenant General, Commanding in Chief.
Hussim, Capitan Pacha.
Abdoullah Jacques Francois Menou, General in Chief of the French army.
James Kempt, Lieutenant Colonel and Secretary.

Head Quarters, Camp before Alexandria,
My Lord, *August* 19*th*, 1801.

THE last division of the French troops who surrendered at Cairo, sailed from the bay of Aboukir a few days ago. There have been embarked in all, near 13,500 persons. The garrison of Cairo consisted of about 8000 troops of all descriptions, fit for duty, not including 1000 sick, and a considerable number of invalids. The total amounts to near 10,000 soldiers; amongst whom there was a very small proportion of Greeks and Copts, not more than four or five hundred men: the remainder were all French. The other persons embarked were followers of the army, and attached to it in various civil capacities.

Major General Cradock having been confined at Cairo by illness, I entrusted the command of the troops to Major General Moore, who, during a long march of a very novel and critical nature, displayed much judgment, and conducted himself in the most able and judicious manner. Notwithstanding the mixture of Turks, British, and French, the utmost regularity was preserved, and no one disagreeable circumstance ever took place. My presence at Cairo was rendered indispensably necessary, by some arrangements which I was obliged to make with his Highness the Grand Vizier.

Major General Baird, after having struggled with many difficulties in passing

passing the desert, and from want of boats to descend the Nile, has at length arrived at Cairo with the greatest part of the troops under his command: and I imagine he will reach Rosetta in the course of a few days: he has been directed to detach a certain number of troops to Damietta, and to leave a garrison at Giza.

We two days ago commenced our operations against Alexandria; as yet no event of any consequence has taken place; we have lost a few men, and taken a few prisoners.

Major General Coote has been detached with a considerable corps to the westward, in order to invest the town completely on that side, and to cut off the communication of the enemy with the Arabs, who have been in the habits of supplying them with small quantities of cattle and other kinds of fresh provisions. General Coote's first operation will be directed against Marabou, a castle on an island at the entrance of the old harbour of Alexandria.

I cannot conclude this letter without stating to your lordship the many obligations I have to Lord Keith and the navy, for the great exertions they have used in forwarding to us the necessary supplies, and from the fatigue they have undergone in the late embarkation of a considerable number of troops and stores, who were embarked on the new lake, and proceeded to the westward under the orders of Major General Coote. The utmost dispatch has also been used in sending the French troops lately captured to France; which in our present position was a service of the most essential consequence.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN HELY HUTCHINSON,

Lieutenant General.

Extract of a letter from Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir JOHN HELY HUTCHINSON, *K. B. to the Right Honourable Lord* HOBART, *dated Head Quarters, Camp before Alexandria, August* 19*th*, 1801.

I WAS honoured with your lordship's dispatches of the 19th of May at Cairo, where I remained to settle some essential business with his Highness

ness the Grand Vizier on the subject of the Mamelukes. I have put their affairs in a train of negociation, and hope to bring them to a fortunate issue.

The siege of Alexandria will probably be attended with many difficulties; the works towards the east side, where we are encamped, are prodigiously strong, and can hardly be approached on account of the narrowness of the space between the lake and the sea, and the nature of the ground; towards the west, the works are not so strong, but however the difficulties in approaching them are also numerous; the corps there is completely in the desert, the communication with us, (by whom they must be supplied with every thing) is tedious, and the boats employed have most severe duty to perform; General Coote has however been so fortunate as to find water; on the whole I cannot flatter myself that Alexandria will be in our possession in such a short time, unless some event takes place, of which we are not at present aware.

The reinforcements from England, Minorca, and Malta, are all arrived, except the 48th regiment from the latter place; they are very fine troops and in a perfect state of health, order, and discipline.

A Copy of a letter from the Right Honourable Lord KEITH, *Admiral of the Blue, &c. to* EVAN NEPEAN, *Esq. dated Foudroyant, Bay of Aboukir, September 2d,* 1801.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour and satisfaction of acquainting you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the important object of this expedition is fully accomplished. A capitulation (a copy of which is enclosed) has been this day signed, providing for the delivery to the allies, to morrow, of the enemy's entrenched camp on the eastern side of Alexandria, and the fort Triangulaire, and other important posts on the western side; and for that of the town itself, the public effects and the shipping in the harbour, at the expiration of ten days, or sooner, if the enemy's troops can be sooner embarked; as soon as I can obtain the return

return of the ships and effects they shall be transmitted to you. The merchant vessels are very numerous, and one old Venetian ship of the line, with the French frigates Egyptienne, Justice, and Regénéré, and some corvettes are known to be in the potr.

Their lordships will not fail to have observed from my former details, the meritorious conduct of the officers and men who have been from time to time employed on the various duties which the debarkation of the army and a co-operation with them has required. The opportunities for brilliant exertion have been few since the 8th of March, the desire for participating in it has been unremitted. But the nature of this expedition has demanded from most of the officers and seamen of the fleet, and particularly from those of the troop-ships, bomb-vessels, and transports, the endurance of labour, fatigue, and privation, far beyond what I have witnessed before, and which I verily believe to have exceeded all former examples; and it has been encountered and surmounted with a degree of resolution and perseverance which merits my highest praise, and gives both officers and men just claim to the protection of their lordships, and the approbation of their country. The number of officers to whom I owe this tribute of approbation, does not admit of my mentioning them by name, but most of the captains of the troop-ships have been employed in the superintendance of these duties, and I have had repeated and urgent offers of voluntary service from all.

The agents for transports have conducted themselves with laudable diligence and activity in the service of the several departments to which they are attached, and displayed the greatest exertion and ability in overcoming the numerous difficulties with which they had to contend.

The captains and commanders of the ships appointed for guarding the port have executed that tedious and anxious duty with diligence and success; during my absence from the squadron, the blockade has been conducted much to my satisfaction by Rear Admiral Sir R. Bickerton; and justice requires me to mention, that when I was with the squadron, Captain Wilson of the Trusty was unwearied in his attention to the direction of all duties in this bay.

The Capitan Pacha has uniformly manifested the most anxious desire of contributing by every means in his power to the promotion of the service. Having been generally on shore with his troops, the ships have been

been submitted, by his orders, to my direction, and the officers have paid the most respectful attention to the instructions they have received from me.

Captain Sir Sydney Smith, who has served with such distinguished reputation in this country, having applied to be the bearer of the dispatches announcing the expulsion of the enemy, I have complied with his request; and I beg to refer their lordships to that active and intelligent officer, for any particular information relative to this or other parts of the country, on which he has had opportunities of making remarks.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) KEITH.

Thanks

Thanks *of* Parliament *to the* Army *and* Navy.

LORD Hobart, pursuant to his notice, rose to move "the thanks of the house to those gallant and meritorious officers who had so ably and eminently distinguished themselves during the late war. Whatever difference of opinion there might be, as to the success of that war, or the manner in which it was concluded; whatever difference might exist, as to the manner in which it had been carried on by the late or the present ministers, he trusted that on the point to which he was about to call the attention of the house, there would be but one opinion—that our forces by sea and land had displayed the most unexampled bravery. He could enumerate numberless instances of individual valor, but they had all been already before the public. The bravery of our seamen in this war almost exceeded any thing ever known before. Of the value of their services some estimate might be made, when it was known that in the course of the war there were taken, burnt, or destroyed, seventy seven ships of the line belonging to our enemies, one hundred and twenty-four frigates, and about one thousand small armed vessels of different kinds. The British army was also entitled to a high degree of praise; wherever it was engaged on equal terms, it was victorious: a great part of our successes during the war were owing to our military; and although the valour of all our officers was already so well known, as to render it unnecessary for him to mention particular facts, or individuals, yet there was *one* officer whom he should name, because by mistake no mention had been made of him in the dispatches of Lord Hutchinson, and to pass him by without notice would be doing an irretrievable injury to his fame; the officer he alluded to was General Doyle; it happened at the time his division proceeded to attack a fort near Alexandria, that he was at the distance of near forty miles, labouring under a severe fit of illness; the moment he heard of the intended attack, he got out of his bed, rode over the desert, joined his troops, and fought with the same degree of bravery which he had always displayed on every former occasion. His Lordship then read a letter, which he said he had received from General Lord Hutchinson, dated Malta, in which that brave and noble person expressed his regret, that in his

his former dispatch he had omitted the name of General Doyle; of whom he also spoke in high terms of praise. His Lordship said he thought it but justice to state this fact: he also conceived it would be unnecessary to dwell any longer on this subject, and concluded with the same motions with those moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

Extract of a Letter from General HUTCHINSON *to Lord* HOBART.

Malta, 9*th January*, 1802.

IN my last dispatch, which relates to the capture of Alexandria, I worded a sentence in so confused and inexplicit a manner, as to render it doubtful whether Brigadier General Doyle was actually present or not with his brigade on that day. He not only was at their head, but conducted himself as he always does, in the most gallant and handsome manner. I am happy to have this opportunity of doing justice to the merits of a most active, diligent, and zealous general officer.

I have the honour,
&c. &c. &c.
(Signed) J. H. HUTCHINSON.

Lord Hobart, &c. &c. &c.

General Hutchinson, not satisfied only with this public reparation to General Doyle's feelings, addressed, on his arrival at Malta, a private letter to General Doyle, which whilst it must have been highly gratifying to that General, did his own head and heart the highest honour; nor did he confine his sentiments of approbation to this circumstance alone, but thus expresses himself at the conclusion:

" It was not only on the 17th of August that I had reason to applaud your manner of acting, but during the whole course of a long and arduous campaign your zealous exertions gave me the greatest reason to approve of your conduct, and I shall ever acknowledge them to have been highly beneficial to the public service."

DISTINCTIONS,

Conferred on the Officers *and* Corps *Employed in the Egyptian Expedition,*

By His Majesty *the* KING *of* Great Britain,

The Houses *of* Parliament,

And His Imperial Majesty *the* Grand Signor.

A Cenotaph to the memory of Sir Ralph Abercromby; a peerage to his widow, and a pension of two thousand pounds per annum.—The thanks of both houses of parliament to the army and navy for their conduct in the three first actions, and again repeated on the final success of the expedition—A circular letter from His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief—Major General Hutchinson first invested with the Order of the Bath, with the rank of Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean, and subsequently created a British peer, with a pension of two thousand pounds per annum.—Admiral Lord Keith created a British peer—Major General Coote invested with the Order of the Bath—Each regiment allowed to carry in their colours the emblem of a sphinx, and to have the word Egypt inscribed.

To perpetuate the services rendered to the Ottoman empire, the Grand Signor established an order of knighthood, which he named the Order of the Crescent.

In the first class were Lord Hutchinson, Lord Keith, Admiral Bickerton, Major General Coote, Major General Baird, and Lord Elgin. In the second the general officers and naval officers of equal rank.

The field officers had large gold medals given them; to the captains smaller gold medals were distributed; and to the subalterns still less—And finally, as a further proof of the sense he entertained of the services rendered him in that campaign and the loyalty and good faith of the English nation, the Grand Signor has ordered a palace to be built in Constantinople for the future residence of British ambassadors.

SIR

SIR Ralph Abercromby's body was carried in the Flora frigate to Malta, and buried in the north east bastion of the fortifications of La Valette.

A black marble tomb-stone laid horizontally, marks the place of interment, on which is the following inscription, written by the Librarian of the Order of Malta.

MEMORIÆ
RADULPHI ABERCROMBI, SCOTI,
EQUITIS ORDINE BALNEO DICTI.
VIRI
PROBITATE
MENTIS, MAGNITUDINE, ANIMO MAXIMO,
ET ARMIS IN BELLO AMERICANO, ATQUE HOLLANDICO
CLARISSIMI:
QUEM
GEORGIUS III. MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ REX,
POPULIS PLAUDENTIBUS,
BRITANNICI TERRESTRIS EXERCITUS AD MARE MEDITER.
DUCEM SUPREMUM DIXIT.
QUO MUNERE,
EXPEDITIONEM ÆGYPTIACAM CONFICIENS,
ORAM ÆGYPTI UNIVERSAM
GALLORUM COPIIS STRENUISS. UNDIQUE ADVERSANTIBUS,
UNO IMPETU OCCUPAVIT: TENUIT:
IDEMQUE PROGREDIENS
EARUM CONATUS NON SEMEL FREGIT: COMPRESSIT:
DONICUM, SIGNIS CUM GALLO CONLATIS
CRUENTO PRŒLIO AD ALEXANDRIAM COMMISSO
ANNO MDCCCI. DIE XXI. M. MARTII
IN PRIMA ACIE IN IPSO VICTORIÆ SINU
LETALE VULNUS FEMORE EXCIPIENS
MAGNO SUORUM DESIDERIO, EXTINCTUS EST.
DIE XXVIII EJUSDEM MENSIS, ANNO ÆTAT. SUÆ 68.
DUX, REI BELLICÆ PERITIA,

PROVIDENTIA

PROVIDENTIA IN CONSULENDO, FORTITUDINE IN EXSEQUENDO,
AC FIDE INTEGRA IN REGNI ET REGIS GLORIAM,
SPECTATISSIMUS.
HUNC, REX, HUNC, MAGNA BRITANNIA FLEVIT.

HENRICUS PIGOT
PRÆPOSITUS GEN. REGIA POTESTATE
PRÆSIDIAR. MILITUM BRITANNICORUM
IN HAC INSULA CONSISTENTIUM,
OPTIMI DUCIS CINERIB. EODEM ANNO DIE XXIX. APRILIS
FUNERE PUBLICO, HUC INLATIS
BENE MERENTI FACIENDUM CURAVIT
PIETATIS CAUSA.

Fatto dal bibliotecario
Fra. Gioacchino Navarro.

TO THE MEMORY
OF RALPH ABERCROMBIE, A NATIVE OF SCOTLAND,
KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH;
A MAN,
HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS PROBITY,
MAGNANIMITY, CONSUMMATE COURAGE
AND MILITARY TALENTS,
IN THE SEVERAL WARS OF AMERICA AND HOLLAND:
WHOM GEORGE THE THIRD, KING OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
WITH THE UNIVERSAL APPROBATION OF HIS SUBJECTS,
APPOINTED COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.
IN WHICH CAPACITY,
COMPLETING AN EXPEDITION TO EGYPT,
HE,
ALTHOUGH EVERY WHERE OPPOSED BY THE BRAVEST
OF THE TROOPS OF FRANCE,
IN ONE FORCIBLE ATTACK GAINED, AND KEPT
POSSESSION OF THE WHOLE EGYPTIAN COAST;
AND IN HIS PROGRESS DEFEATED AND SUPPRESSED
THEIR ENDEAVOURS TO OPPOSE HIM:
UNTIL, THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ARMIES
ENGAGING IN A SANGUINARY CONFLICT NEAR
ALEXANDRIA,
ON THE 21ST DAY OF MARCH, IN THE YEAR 1801,
WHILST FIGHTING IN THE FOREMOST RANKS,
AND IN THE VERY BOSOM OF VICTORY,
HE RECEIVED A MORTAL WOUND
IN HIS THIGH;
OF WHICH, TO THE KEEN REGRET OF ALL, WHO KNEW HIM,
HE EXPIRED
ON THE 28TH DAY OF THE SAME MONTH, IN THE 68TH
YEAR OF HIS AGE.
HE WAS A COMMANDER
EMINENTLY CONSPICUOUS FOR HIS SKILL IN THE ART OF WAR;

FOR

FOR HIS PRUDENCE IN PROJECTING,
AND BRAVERY IN EXECUTING, HIS MEASURES,
AND FOR HIS UNSULLIED HONOR, IN ALL, THAT
CONCERNED THE GLORY OF HIS COUNTRY AND KING,
HIS SOVEREIGN AND GREAT BRITAIN WERE ALIKE
GRIEVED AT HIS LOSS.

HENRY PIGOT,
APPOINTED BY ROYAL AUTHORITY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE GARRISON
OF BRITISH TROOPS, STATIONED
IN THIS ISLAND, HAS PIOUSLY ORDERED
THIS TO BE RAISED OVER THE ASHES
OF THAT EXCELLENT AND WELL DESERVING
OFFICER, CONVEYED HITHER, IN PUBLIC
FUNERAL, ON THE 29TH DAY OF
APRIL, IN THE SAME YEAR.

FINIS.

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